Stourbridge
CHRONICLE
Thursday, September 15, 2016 | Read by more than 57,000 people | Price when sold 60p

MAJOR REVAMP FOR MERRY HILL

Report by Richard Guttridge

PLANS for a new leisure centre as part of a major overhaul of Merry Hill shopping centre have been revealed.

Work to improve pedestrian and bus routes around the station at Merry Hill will also start in the new year.

The shopping centre itself will undergo improvement works as owners Intu looks to modernise the centre.

Development boss Brad Critcher said the company was looking to create an extension to the centre for leisure purposes, with a bowling alley being one of the options explored.

The work is intended to help the complex in Dudley compete with Birmingham city centre and to attract shoppers from across the wider Midlands

Merry Hill development director Mr Critcher said: "November and December is when the centre is at its busiest, so the work will begin after Christmas.

"We want to encourage people to come to the centre for a bit longer, given the competitive pressures all centres are under.

"We will be refreshing the malls and the entrances to bring the centre into 2017."

Intu has had major plans for Merry Hill shopping centre since taking over the centre three years ago, with improving the bus station among its top priorities.

Previous proposals for a £3 million bus station were shelved in 2013 after they were deemed too expensive.

Metro

The Midland Metro line is eventually due to reach the shopping centre in Brierley Hill as part of a major expansion of the network, which has already been extended into Birmingham city centre.

The Metro expansion would also low people travelling by train from Shropshire and further afield to reach Merry Hill by changing at Wolverhampton or Birmingham.

Business bosses have welcomed the planned revamp of the Merry Hill shopping centre, which will include changes to the bus station and a new leisure complex.

Ninder Johal, who is a board member at the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, said the plans would be a boost for the region.

He said: "Intu is a large property with operations all around the country, therefore it is very pleasing they have decided to invest in their facilities in the Black Country.

"Clearly, they must have had other opportunities, so it is fantastic to see.

"With the investment which is coming into other parts of the Black Country, this is only going to help bring in more and more visitors."

Dudley Council's regeneration boss Khurshid Ahmed said: "It is positive, especially the leisure site. With all the problems with obesity and the rest of it, this will give people something to do."

CANAL BOAT FESTIVAL IS A CUT ABOVE THE REST

Alan Keenan, of Rowley Regis, was among those enjoying the Black Country Boating Festival at Bumble Hole, Netherton

THOUSANDS of people flocked to the 31st Black Country Boating Festival over the weekend to enjoy viewing the narrow boats, supping ales and watching live entertainment.

The event along the Dudley Number Two canal line, in Netherton, saw more than 80 boats take part.

Charities and traders held stalls at the event where real ales, ciders and live music were on offer.

Festival director Paddy Grice said: "It was an excellent weekend. Around 3,000 to 4,000 came on Saturday, which saw some rain, and then 5,000 to 7,000 people on the Sunday.

"We had over 80 narrow boats there, leisure and working.

"We were joined by four boaters who have attended the festival since it first started 31 years ago.

Volunteers

"We also had 100 charity, community and trade stalls take part. The event was totally run by volunteers.

"As the festival crossed both the Dudley and Sandwell borders, we had both the mayors of Dudley and Sandwell attend."

The boaters, who have attended every event, are Jon and Maggie Jones, Ivor and Marion Chambers, Alan Moore and David and Gill Wheeler.

A classic car show, was also held on the Saturday and a fun dog show and fun fair also took place. Narrow boats were not the only craft represented as canoes and kayaks were on show too.

Organiser confirmed that the festival will return next September.

HONOURS

Medals for long service in health

TWO women from the Stourbridge area have been honoured for years of work in the health sector.

They were awarded British Empire Medals at a special ceremony at Birmingham Council House.

Jean Fletcher, aged 83, of Stourbridge, worked as a nurse until she was 76 and still volunteers one day a week at Mary Stevens Hospice.

Lynne Jankowska, 64, from Wordsley, is one of the longest serving workers at the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust.

INDUSTRY

Tata Steel group in further slump

TATA Steel, which has sites across the Black Country, slumped to a net loss of £358m for the quarter to June as uncertainty continues for its UK operations.

The Indian steel giant was hit by £438m losses.

The company is understood to be in talks with German steel giant Thyssen-Krupp over a possible merger with its European operation, which includes the Port Talbot plant as well as Black Country operations in Brierley Hill, Wednesbury, Walsall and Wednesfield.

LANDMARK

Eyesore plants taken from sides of Cone

WORK has started to remove plants growing from the sides of the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley.

A number of buddleia plants have taken root in the mortar of the 17th Century building. Dudley Council experts say they need to be removed to ensure the long-term preservation of the important landmark.

A cherry-picker is being used to remove the plants, and mortar which is made to the original 1780s formula, will be used to repair any damage.

The work is expected to take around a week to complete after starting on Monday.

INSIDE

WIN TICKETS FOR LEGO SHOW

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More than £15k to help village ventures

MORE than £15,000 has been granted to community groups near Stourbridge following successful bids to a Government scheme.

Hagley Rambler Scouts Group will receive £10,000 towards a new minibus and Hagley Parish Council will benefit by at least £6,000 towards the new pavilion in Hagley Playing Fields, after they submitted a joint bid with West Hagley Football Club.

The funding will come from The New Homes Bonus (NHB) scheme at Bromsgrove District Council.

Peter Rowbottom, of Hagley Residents Action Group, who previously lobbied the district council to pass on New Homes Bonus money to local communities, said: "I would like to congratulate both Hagley groups on their successful bids fand look forward to villagers benefitting from both the new minibus and the new pavilion building when it is completed.

Supporting

"I would also like to thank Hagley's district councillors, Steve Colella and Rachel Jenkins, for formally supporting the bids when they were submitted. This is the second successive year that Hagley and other areas in the district have received New Homes Bonus money from Bromsgrove Council and I look forward to further payments in future years that will bring further benefits."

The New Homes Bonus is a grant paid by central Government to local councils to reflect and incentivise housing growth in their areas.

The payments were agreed at a meeting of the Bromsgrove Council Cabinet on September 7, with a further agreement to reconsider increasing the agreed amount for the pavilion after a direct request from Councillor Colella, who represents the Hagley West ward, said: "I am pleased that the two Hagley bids received support from the NHB Panel.

In total more than £50,000 will go to community groups across Bromsgrove district.

Elderly facing extra fees as funds are cut

ELDERLY residents in some private retirement homes may have to fork out hundreds of pounds a year extra as a result of cost-cutting plans by Dudley Council.

The cash-strapped authority has pulled funding from the Supported People living scheme – leaving residents to make up the difference themselves. The scheme helps vulnerable people to live at home independently and funds help with daily chores.

Among the homes affected is Herald Court, in Priory Street, Dudley, where residents would now have to pay operator, Stonewater, £9.38 a week for the service.

Cabinet member for adult social care Councillor Qadar Zada said: "We are facing unprecedented challenges to the way we deliver services in the light of significant cuts in central government funding. As a result we are having to review our investment in preventative services to focus more on helping people live more independently.

"We have had to withdraw support to supported living schemes. This has previously provided funding at Herald Court towards the cost of a warden. Whilst this support may be valued by residents, we had to take the difficult decision to remove this funding in order to ensure that the council is able to support people who have a statutory entitlement to care services.

Worried

"The supported living provider will continue to offer a service but will charge those residents who wish to use it."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said he was worried to hear about the extra costs for residents. "I'm calling on the Government to ensure residents at Herald Court do not lose out," said the Labour MP. "I want to ask the council and the housing association what they can do to ensure my constituents' homes are safe."

Sharron Gough, for Stonewater, said: "Stonewater was advised in March that Dudley borough council were reviewing all 'supporting people' contracts and funding that we received for the scheme manager services we provide at our retirement living scheme Herald Court could be impacted.

"We are disappointed this service could no longer be provided as Stonewater has been working hard with the council to secure partial funding for this service."

Children hit by car near school

A CCTV image of the car involved in the incident near to the school, described as a red Ford Focus C-Max

TWO children aged three were among four people hurt in a hit-and-run outside a primary school in Stourbridge.

The boy and girl and two women were close to Hob Green Primary School in Hob Green Road, Wollescote when they were hit by a red Ford Focus C-Max on Monday morning.

All four were taken to hospital to be checked over but were not seriously hurt in the incident, which happened just before 9am.

Police have launched an appeal to find the driver and have asked for witnesses to come forward.

Hob Green Primary's headteacher Stuart Brown said: "We are extremely shocked by this incident. We are providing support in the school for children and staff who witnessed the incident and our thoughts and best wishes are with those who were injured."

Parent Abigail Venables, aged 26, of Stourbridge, said: "It was shocking – I saw the aftermath of it. There were police and several ambulances.

"It is shocking to think this could happen, especially when it was so close to my children's school."

Another resident who witnessed the incident said: "They were two young children who could have been killed. Everyone was screaming, it was horrible."

Anyone who can help police with information should call them on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Knife crime rises by a third over three years

KNIFE crime in the Black Country has risen by a third over the last three years, according to new figures.

Since 2013 West Midlands Police has investigated 2,026 crimes involving knives in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton, with the number of incidents rising by 33 per cent since 2013 – just three years.

The figures have prompted WMP to issue a plea for communities to 'come together' in a bid to stop people from carrying knives.

In Sandwell there have been more than 700 alleged crimes where a knife was involved over the last three years, while the figure was 546 in Wolverhampton, 407 in Walsall and 351 in Dudley.

The incidents include the fatal stabbing of Mircea Gheorghe Cozmiuc, aged 23, who last week was found with stab wounds in Carter Road, Wolverhampton. He later died of his injuries.

The figures, which come via a Freedom of Information request, show the worrying extent of reported crimes involving knives that are taking place in the Black Country.

Soho and Victoria in Sandwell has consistently seen the highest number of incidents where knife use has been alleged, with 18 recorded so far this year and a total of 81 in the last three years.

In Dudley, Brierley Hill and the St James' wards have both seen 36 incidents involving knives over three years.

This comes despite knife bin campaigns across the region.

Views are sought on health services

THE public are invited to attend a meeting about GP services in the borough.

The Primary Care Commissioning Committee (PCCC) meeting will be held on September 30 at the Zion Christian Centre in Halesowen.

The role of the PCC is to ensure collective decisions on planning, developing, delivering, monitoring and managing the budget for GP services across Dudley, under delegated authority from NHS England.

The closure of Coombs Wood Surgery will be a topic of discussion at the meeting, being chaired by Mr Steve Wellings, Vice-Chair for Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group.

Questions for the board should be emailed in advance to Lindsey.Harding@dudleyccg.nhs.uk by September 26.

Medical director in new hospital role

THE health trust which runs Russells Hall Hospital has announced the appointment of an acting chief executive following the departure of boss Paula Clark to join Stafford's County Hospital. Current medical director Paul Harrison will step into the role from October 1.

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Town is to get a new market open on Sundays

COUNCIL chiefs hope a new open air Sunday market in Dudley will boost trade in the town centre.

Plans for the market on Flood Street Car Park were revealed week. Dudley Council is working with Black Country Market to run the new event, which starts on Sunday, September 25.

Stalls will be open from 10am to 4pm, while a funfair will provide entertainment with children's rides on offer. Items on sale will ranged from plants to jewellery and, in the run up toe Christmas, there will be seasonal goods and gifts.

There will also be a weekly car boot sale with free parking for all visitors for the first four weeks.

Encourage

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "Dudley is a fantastic town centre with a great retail offer throughout the week and this new market will help to add further attraction.

"I would encourage everyone who enjoys shopping to come along and try out the markets for themselves."

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment, said: "We are offering free car parking on Sundays for the first four weeks to encourage people to come and see what's on offer.

"We hope that this new initiative will boost the number of people visiting and spending in Dudley on Sundays."

Radio station hit by raid on studio

A COMMUNITY radio station in Dudley was broken into with thieves making off with £10,000 worth of broadcasting equipment.

The raid took place at Black Country Radio, in Saltwells Road, overnight on Thursday while a pre-recorded programme was being aired. Mixing desks and amplifiers were amongst the items taken.

The damage was discovered by Black Country comedy group The Fizzogs, who had turned up to present their Breakfast Show.

It came less than a week before the station's first birthday, after Black Country Radio launched last September. The station is a merger of 102.5 The Bridge and online station Black Country Community Radio.

Volunteer awards night and meeting

DUDLEY Council for Voluntary Services is holding its annual general meeting at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on October 20 at 6pm.

The evening will also feature the 14th Dudley Volunteer Awards.

Yob who threw first punch awaits sentence

Daniel Lloyd – threw punch

TWO juveniles aged 13 and 15 were among yobs who attacked football fan Nic Cruwys leaving him fighting for his life.

Now Joseph Lister, aged 19, from Wednesfield, and Connor Pearson, 16, and Joe Wood, 15, both from Wolverhampton are behind bars. Ryan Meer, 19, from Gailey, and Robert Beech, 19, Wednesfield, were given suspended sentences. Daniel Lloyd, 19, from Sedgley, will be sentenced within the next 28 days.

The court heard about their part in the sickening and barbaric assault that left Mr Cruwys with permanent injuries. It was revealed that Lloyd delivered the punch which knocked the Watford fan to the ground, then Lister and Pearson attacked Mr Cruwys and Wood stamped on his head. Beech showed threatening behaviour during the attack in Littles Lane in Wolverhampton in March last year after a game between Wolverhampton and Watford.

CCTV taken from Carvers showed Mr Cruwys suffering repeated brutal punches and kicks. The horrific attack left him in a coma for weeks. His wife Jodie was told at one stage he may not survive.

Wood, of Woodstock Road, was sentenced to four years and eight months in a Young Offenders Institution after pleading guilty to grievous bodily harm with intent. Lister, of Palmer Close, was given 30 months in a Young Offenders Institution and Pearson, of Ettingshall Road, 12 months in a Young Offenders Institution after pleading guilty to causing grievous bodily harm.

Meer, of Watling Street was given an eight-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, 200 hours' unpaid work after pleading guilty to threatening behaviour.

Beech, of Springhill Road, was given a two-year sentence in a Young Offenders Institution, suspended for 12 months after pleading guilty to threatening behaviour.

Murder probe as attack victim dies in hospital

A MURDER investigation has begun after a man found with head injuries in a Halesowen road died in hospital.

Karl Swift, aged 33, died in hospital on Saturday having been found on New Road with serious injuries at around 12.30am on Friday.

Detectives are now treating the death of Mr Swift, from South Yorkshire, as murder.

Two men from the South Yorkshire region, aged 23 and 58, were arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm. The pair have since been bailed pending further investigation by police.

Police believe that an incident may have taken place at the nearby William Shenstone Wetherspoon's pub, in Queensway, shortly before the attack.

Detectives have urged anyone with information about the incident to come forward and are particularly keen to hear from anyone who was in the pub on Thursday evening.

An area of New Road was cordoned off whilst forensic experts examined the scene at the weekend.

Detective Inspector Warren Hines, from West Midlands Police CID, said: "Our investigation is progressing and while we have now made two arrests we still need to speak to any witnesses who were in the area late on Thursday night into Friday morning. We still believe there may have been an incident at the William Shenstone Wetherspoon's pub in Halesowen prior to the victim leaving and we would ask anyone with information to call 101 as soon as possible.

Crimestoppers

"Alternatively information can be passed to Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111."

Eddie Gershon, spokesperson for JD Wetherspoon, said: "This is very sad news that a gentleman has lost his life and we extend our condolences to his family and friends. We will now be working closely with the police to help assist them in any way we can and provide CCTV footage if need be."

Councillor Alan Taylor, who represents the Halesowen South ward, spoke of his shock at the tragedy.

He said: "This is absolutely tragic and I feel for the family and friends who are now left facing this.

"Halesowen is usually a safe and quiet town and something like this hasn't happened in a long time. "We can only hope that the police investigation gets those responsible."

A local businessman, who did wish to be named, said: "From my experience of working here and near to Wetherspoon's, it is always a nice pub where you go and have a quiet drink."

The William Shenstone pub where an 'incident' took place before badly injured Mr Swift was found

Karl Swift, aged 33, died after being attacked

New Road in Halesowen where Mr Swift was found

NEWS IN BRIEF

No risk to health say water bosses

RESIDENTS have reported discoloured water coming from taps around Stourbridge, Hagley and Halesowen, prompting an investigation by Severn Trent Water.

Samples were being taken but there is not believed to be any risk to health.

A spokesman said: "Discolouration is usually caused by the disturbance of mains sediments. Although unappealing, we have no reason to believe there is any risk to your health."

They advise running the cold water tap at a gentle rate for up to 20 minutes before use.

Seven new homes to replace pub

A PUB is set to be knocked down to make way for seven new homes near Stourbridge.

The plans have been revealed for The Balds Lane Tavern in Lye, which has been shut for six years.

It is planned to replace the pub with a row of terraced houses that would be created on the site on Balds Lane, with parking spaces also to be provided for the properties.

It would finally mark the end for the pub building, which was formerly owned by Marston's before being sold off.

Classic cars to visit glass cone

MEMBERS of the Black Country Classic Car Club will be showing off their vehicles in Wordsley.

The club is supporting a classic car rally being held at Red House Glass Cone, in High Street, on Sunday, September 25.

Cars will be on display at various locations around the site from 11am to 4pm.

The club has been established since May 2003 and now has more than 75 members.

Garden wall is part demolished in accident

A MOTORIST was taken to hospital after a Ford Ka crashed into a brick wall in Brierley Hill last week.

Part of the garden wall was demolished in the incident at Peter's Hill Road, close to Peter's Hill Primary School, at around 4.10pm on Wednesday, September 7.

Ten firefighters from Brierley Hill and Stourbridge helped deal with the aftermath. A spokesman: "Persons in the car had been released prior to the arrival of the fire service."

Village club beer award

A VILLAGE club near Stourbridge has again been named by the Campaign for Real Ale as the best in the West Midlands for its beer. Kinver Constitutional Club, founded 1902, won the regional club of the year accolade for the second year in a row from Dudley and South Staffs Camra.

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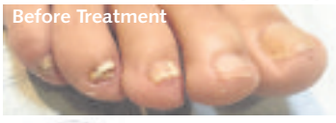

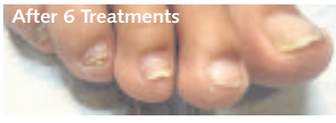

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE swallows are preparing to leave us for Africa, gathering in great clouds to fatten themselves on autumn bugs. It raises a question. What is the collective noun for swallows? The answer is a flight, herd, richness or swoop of swallows. Or my favourite, a gulp of swallows.

THIS week will be remembered for the day the big chimney came down. It stood on the Isle of Grain, 800 feet high. As the chimney was demolished and collapsed into itself, the chimney lining of ash and soot stayed where it was, a column of dust marking where the chimney had been. It was like a ghost-chimney, slowly fading. If anybody can explain the physics behind it, I'd love to hear.

I ASKED why some cyclists insist on using the roads when cycle tracks are provided. A pedaller emails starchily: "If I decide to cycle on the road then that is what I will continue to do, no matter how many cycle paths our government decides to waste money on." He tells me his cycling wife has a helmet camera to record "the inane things people in vehicles do." Why does this not surprise me?

A READER reports buying a box of two chocolate eclairs. A fervent recycler, she consulted the instructions on the pack and discovered: "Carton - card, widely recycled. Tray - plastic, check local recycling. Window - plastic, not currently recycled." So in order to do her civic duty she must cut out the window, check with her local council about the tray and put the box in the recycle bin. And you begin to understand why hundreds of thousands of tons of rubbish go in the wrong bins. Do we really need a little plastic window to see what eclairs look like?

"ECLAIR," incidentally, is the only word in Chambers English Dictionary defined by a joke: "A cake, long in shape but short in duration."

UNLESS you have a heart of pure tungsten, you will cheer the competitors in the Paralympics to the rafters. It is hard enough to hone a perfect body to perfection. To force your imperfect or amputated body to win gold requires dedication beyond belief. And yet the central question which has always dogged these events will not go away. Some athletes and coaches complain that competitors can manipulate the classification procedures to get an unfair advantage. A full investigation is promised after the Rio games. Maybe it will result not merely in a new form of grading but a whole new ethos. At present the Paralympics mimics the Olympics in the pursuit of medals at all costs. Perhaps it's time to create a distinctly different ethos in which what matters is not the winning but the taking part.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Farmers to celebrate 70th anniversary

A COUNTRYSIDE show will be held to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Halesowen and Hagley Farmers' Club.

The club, which had its origins in a ploughing match in 1946, originally met at Newbrook Farm, Frankley. It led to the formation the following year of the Halesowen and Hagley Farmers' and Young Farmers' Club.

The first two shows were held at Manor Lane, in Lapal, and competitions included ploughing, hedging, farm livestock, horses and pony classes and jumping.

Conrad Palmer, of the club, said: "We are proud that the organisation and its show has survived over the years with the ups and downs of the times.

"The 'on-farm' competitions have remained throughout with dairy, beef and sheep herds being judged together with competitions for growing crops of wheat, barley, oats and for the best all-round farms.

"Since the move to a Sunday, the club has been fortunate to have some fantastic sites in the Romsley area, which has brought the show back into the heart of our area and enabled us to increase the horse show significantly."

Current membership is in excess of 100 and is not exclusive to those in agriculture as the club welcome anyone with an interest in the countryside. For further information email hhfarmersclub@gmail.com.

The 70th Anniversary Countryside Show will be held on Sunday at Field House Lane, Romsley, from 10am. Admission is £2 including parking, under 16s are free.

Homes lined up for shoppers' car park

By Simon Penfold

THE owners of Brierley Hill's Moor Centre shopping precinct want to build 39 homes on part of its car park.

Under new plans, Evolve Estates is looking for planning permission for 39 apartments and maisonettes, saying the car park is 'under-used'.

The company says its plan will help "kickstart much-needed further regeneration in the town".

Matthew Pegg, asset manager at London & Cambridge Properties (LCP), which manages the centre, said the planned scheme would invigorate an area that has struggled to attract new retailers.

He said it would act as a catalyst for further investment and would also provide jobs within the construction sector and supply chain.

Affordable

"Dudley needs affordable housing in particular and we are confident that this sustainable town centre development will provide not only a social need but also create benefits for local residents, businesses and shops, whilst utilising a brownfield site" said Mr Pegg.

"We believe it will act as a catalyst for further redevelopment within the town centre, which has long been regarded as being in need of investment. We believe that it will be an active street screen, creating a safe and attractive environment in an area that can suffer from anti-social behaviour during non-operational hours."

A planning application has been submitted to Dudley Council for the one, two and three-bedroom homes with dedicated car parking spaces at the front of the development.

The scheme will cut the number of car parking spaces at the shopping centre from 169 to 60, but LCP and Evolve says independent analysis has found that would be enough for the numbers using the car park. They say that, even after the introduction of free parking in December, the car park has spare capacity.

Time for thinking outside the box

Sculptor Tim Tolkien and Cradley Heath Creative secretary Elizabeth Lee with arts centre on wheels the 'Oss Box

INTEREST is soaring in the quirky mobile 'Oss box arts venue which has been popping up in various locations across the Black Country.

The converted 1970s horse box spends most of its time in Cradley Heath but recently ventured to West Bromwich for the Sandwell Arts Festival.

The travelling performance vessel is the creation of Cradley Heath Creative.

So far it has been used for shadow puppetry, musical performances and a camera obscurer. It is currently under going work so one of the side doors can drop down to create a touring stage.

Tim Tolkien, famous for his metal sculpting works – most notably the 50 foot Sentinel sculpture on Spitfire Island, near the M6 in Birmingham – is the man tasked with the transforming the 'Oss Box.

He said: "I joined Cradley Heath Creative just over a year ago and there was a small surplus of money, so out of conversations at the pubs came the idea of the 'Oss Box.

"Originally we were just thinking of ideas for a little venue, which was a shed, then became a caravan, before ending on a horse box."

Mr Tolkien, who is the great-nephew of The Lord of the Rings author JRR. Tolkien, says he is excited by the potential of the 'Oss Box. "It's only going to improve. We'll put a sound system in their next and really will turn into a portable arts venue," he added.

Paramedic struck off for failings over ill girl

A WEST Midlands paramedic who exposed a teenager to an 'unwarranted risk of harm' by failing to carry appropriate equipment has been struck off the register of health professionals.

Marcus Galligan, employed by West Midlands Ambulance Service as an Emergency Care Practitioner (ECP), was called out to a YMCA to treat the 17-year-old girl who was complaining of breathing difficulties.

But he failed to take oxygen, any means of delivering oxygen or any respirator drugs.

Mr Galligan took only a defibrillator and a thermometer into the premises of the YMCA to treat the patient.

A Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Conduct and Competence Committee also found he did not adequately assess the patient, despite recording that he had done so.

Mr Galligan, who attended the hearing and was represented, also assumed the girl was drunk based on an inadequate assessment.

The panel concluded his actions amounted to misconduct and he was struck off the HCPC register.

Panel chair Sarah Baalham said: "The panel concluded that Mr Gilligan's acts and omissions were unprofessional and by failing to follow the proper procedures, based on Service User A's presentation, he exposed her to an unwarranted risk of harm. Ensuring the availability of appropriate equipment and conducting primary and secondary surveys are fundamental to the role of a paramedic."

Woman cut free from car wreck

A WOMAN had to be cut free from a car after a two-vehicle smash in Dudley last week.

She was taken to hospital with a suspected shoulder injury after being cut free from a Mazda MX5 following the crash with a Vauxhall Astra in Wolverhampton Street on Monday, May 5, just after 7.30pm.

Crews from Dudley Fire Station used cutting equipment to rescue her from the vehicle.

A West Midlands Fire Service spokesman, said: "Two crews from Dudley attended the scene and assisted the woman from the vehicle. She was taken to Russells Hall Hospital to be checked over. "Everyone in the second vehicle had got out before crews arrived and didn't have any injuries."

Three-day street food, beer and gin festival

A LYE pub is staging a three-day autumn street food and beer festival.

The event at the Shovel Inn in Pedmore Road is taking place from September 29 to October 1. There will be a dozen street food stalls and the pub have a dozen cask ales plus 10 gins.

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The bargain hunters cop good deals at auction

'YOU'VE got to be quick or you will miss out on some fantastic items'. These were the words of auctioneer Peter Worthington as a recovered goods police auction got under way at Aston's in Dudley.

Hundreds gathered to bid on around 400 items, all previously stolen or disowned, ranging from bikes, watches, power tools and Louis Vuitton and Michael Kors bags. Money raised goes back to the public purse after expenses.

David Redman, 50, had travelled from Westward Ho! in Devon to take his chances with the bags. He said: "It is the first time I have come here and the designer handbags really caught my eye. I would like to buy them to sell on but I think my daughter would have something to say about that."

Mr Redman lost out on the bags to internet bidders with the Louis Vuitton going for £547 and the Michael Kors for £230 as hundreds of internet bidders waded into the action at Baylies Hall, in Tower Street. The majority of the first 50 lots wer sold to those sitting behind computer screens across the country.

A quantity of scrap lead caused a stir in the room, eventually being sold for £270. A signed photo of Hollywood actress Halle Berry went for £15.

Chris Aston, director, said: "The top lots of the day were the lathes that went for £900 and the Ford Focus that sold for £650. They were from a Dudley Council house clearance where a guy had passed away and didn't have any relatives."

Black Country zombie horror

A NEW horror movie which was partially shot at Dudley Guest Hospital, on Cannock Chase and in Birmingham is released in cinemas next week.

Zombie thriller The Girl With All The Gifts stars Staffordshire-born Paddy Considine, who was recently seen in Peaky Blinders, Gemma Arterton and Fatal Attraction star Glenn Close. It will hit movie screens across the UK on September 23.

Cast and crew involved with the movie spent three days filming outdoor scenes at Cannock Chase last year. More scenes were shot at locations in Dudley and Halesowen.

The movie got financial backing from Creative England's West Midlands Production Fund in the biggest investment it has made.

Students' discount event at Merry Hill

THE Merry Hill shopping centre is holding its next students' night event on October 4. Students will be able to get special discounts from 3pm to 9pm. Register first at intu.co.uk/merryhill/event-archive/student-night

Petition to bring back crossing warden

A PETITION has been launched by parents calling for a lollipop lady or man to be brought back to help children cross a busy road – after the measure was axed as part of £115,000 cost-cutting plans.

Withymoor Primary School, in Brierley Hill, no longer has a lollipop warden after the role was removed by cash-strapped Dudley Council at the end of last term.

Now 240 people have signed the petition calling for the service to be reinstated.

Amblecote councillor Paul Bradley, who serves on the council's children's services scrutiny committee, was due discuss the petition at a local community forum this week.

He said: "I know the service to cross children safely along roads is not a legal one but the council has been doing it for the last 60 years.

"I have got a lot of sympathy for Dudley Council with the savings they have to make and I am not pointing fingers. But this is about children's safety. Making cuts to children's services is a step too far. With all the austerity that is going on, it is unprecedented. They have made the cuts to children's services to save £115,000."

Other schools across the Dudley borough have also had crossing patrols axed, he added.

Councillor Bradley said if wardens were not brought back to Withymoor Primary School, in Gayfield Avenue, some other form of regulation that would help children cross safely was necessary.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The school crossing patrol service is not a statutory requirement.

"The council has previously been in a position to fund this service. Whilst we recognise its importance for parents and local children across the borough, we are having to look at alternative options for the service due to the unprecedented funding cuts.

"In the case of Withymoor Primary, we carried out a traffic survey and found the school crossing no longer met the nationally set criteria based on a number of factors, including footfall, traffic volume, accident history and the existing traffic calming measures."

Pokémon Go players are warned of assaults

POLICE have warned people playing Pokémon Go to take care after several players have become victims of attacks by people thinking they were being filmed or photographed.

West Midlands Police Crime Prevention Sergeant, Andy Gregory, said: "Most Pokémon Go related calls we receive are over large groups of people gathering at Poké Stops or other popular game locations and complaints of cars blocking roads, parking on footpaths, or people generally acting anti-socially."

A road near Priory Park in Dudley had to be blocked off after residents complained about hordes of Pokémon followers hunting for the virtual reality creatures in the historic ruins.

Sgt Gregory continued: "We have had a few incidents of people mistakenly believing Pokémon Go players are filming them or taking photographs – one led to an assault and another to a car being damaged.

"It is important players are courteous to other members of the public, stay within the law, don't trespass, and do not cause traffic disruption. If offences are committed then people could end up being prosecuted.

Snatched

They could also end up being victims. Sgt Gregory added: "On one occasion a 17-year-old hunting Pokémon in a Stourbridge park at 10pm had his phone snatched, while a 14-year-old in Small Heath had his brand new iPhone 6 snatched while playing Pokémon Go.

"The normal personal safety advice applies – be aware of your surroundings. We would not advise walking through parks or other remote locations late at night clearly displaying valuable mobile phones. Stay in well-lit places and if you are going out Pokémon hunting, especially children, it's advisable and more fun to go out with friends and not alone."

A Freedom of Information request revealed police attended a Pokémon Go related incident every day over a two-week period in July. These included seven traffic issues, two incidents of damage to property and a robbery. No arrests have yet been made as a result.

The mobile phone-based game involves players 'catching' the creatures using maps of real locations, with landmarks being particular hotspots. Some 290 criminal incidents linked to users of the app were recorded across England and Wales in July.

Darby and Joan appeal for members

Friendly – members of the Darby and Joan club at Brockmoor Community Centre, celebrating 60 years

SECRETARY of Brockmoor Darby and Joan Club, Kathleen Grainger, said it 'needs new members to keep the community club going'.

The club was started 60 years ago by the late Madeline 'Madge' Sharratt, in the hut known as the Simmonds Hall in Kerry Close, Brockmoor, for over-55s in the area.

It was the first group to move into the new Community Centre in Brockmoor when the building opened in 1961.

The club celebrated its 60th anniversary in July and has been appealing for new members to sign up.

At its peak it had a membership of 200 and a waiting list for people living in Brockmoor. Today it has around 55 members.

Ms Grainger, aged 80, from Amblecote, said: "I think the club is fantastic, to think it was started in that little hut by Madge who built the club up. She died in 2011 at the age of 97. We need to get new members to keep the club going. It is a friendly club. Members come to meet their friends and have a chat. We always provide tea and coffee."

Members enjoy coach trips, holidays and entertainment and meet every Monday afternoon. For more information call (01384) 378723.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drivers face lane closures at night

MOTORISTS in Brierley Hill face further disruption as road reconstruction work takes place.

Reconstruction of the carriageway on the A4036 on the northbound side of Pedmore Road between Level Street and The Gateway is being followed by more work this week. The latest phase will take place between Coppice Lane and Level Street on both sides of the dual carriageway.

The work will involve weekday lane closures at night, from 7pm to around 2am. The scheme is expected to continue throughout September.

Children's author is up for an award

A CHILDREN'S author from Dudley is in the running for a national People's Book Prize.

David J Robertson's illustrated book, Dognapped, is one of three finalists in the children's category.

Mr Robertson's own pet Misty inspired his story about a quartet of dogs and their narrowboat misadventures.

The next book from the 60-year-old former engineer, of Kingswinford, will be entitled In The Doghouse.

Dognapped was published in April by Troubadour Publishing.

Back to the 60s at charity night

A 1960s night will be held next month at Lye Town Football Club to raise funds for the charity We Love Carers.

Tickets are £7.50 for the event on October 22, which will feature 60s music including hits from the beat groups and soul music.

People attending are encouraged to get out their mini skirts and other mod or hippy gear to dress up in the fashions of the decade for the event. It runs from 7.30pm to 11pm at the club in Stourbridge Road.

Healthy heart sessions designed for elderly

CLASSES to help the elderly maintain a healthy heart are being held in Brierley Hill.

The 'Happy Hearts' sessions will help people who wish to improve their cardiac health without going to a gym or pounding the streets.

The one-hour sessions take place at the Nine Locks Community Centre, in Hill Street, from 11am on Mondays. Call Kim or Angela on 07512 546480 for more details or to book a taster class.

Cyclist was badly hurt

A CYCLIST was badly injured in a crash involving a car on Kent Street in Upper Gornal at around 6.15pm on Tuesday, September 6. The cyclist, a man in his 50s, was taken to Russells Hall Hospital, then transferred to the major trauma centre at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Advertisement

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Stourbridge & the surrounding areas and manager Brian Stanley agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Emergency button in a Dash for the loo

IT HAS long been my belief that the problem with modern technology is that everything we really need has already been invented, and that most new developments are just variations on an old theme.

The MP3 player, for example, is just an updated gramophone. The iPhone is just a souped-up version of what Alexander Graham Bell came up with in 1876.

So hats off to those folk at Amazon who have solved a problem which nobody thought to tackle before: how to buy toilet paper from the comfort of your own bathroom.

Amazon's Dash service means that for £4.99 you can have a device installed in the little boy's room so that when you run out, all you need to do is press a button. Then before you know it, an Andrex multi-pack is winging its way from Rugeley.

Actually, 'before you know it' is an exaggeration. If you live in the wrong postcode, delivery can take up to 24 hours. So probably best to keep a bit in reserve, or it could seem like a very long wait.

Some see this as a marvellous technological breakthrough, the first step towards a fully automated household where everything is available at the touch of a button.

Control

Others view it as the thin end of the wedge, another step towards the day when internet giants know all about our shopping habits and have total control of the market.

Me? I just thought 'I hope they wash their hands first'.

Anyway, my suspicion is that after a bit of initial curiosity, Dash will quickly go the same way as the Amstrad emailer and the Sinclair C5.

Customers will soon realise there is more to life than staying at home waiting for the Andrex to arrive.

❒ ❒ ❒

I NEVER really got the point of Great British Bake Off. Surely there are better things to do with your evening than watching people you have never met baking cakes on television.

And I certainly can't understand all the confected anger about it being moved from the BBC to Channel 4.

"The BBC has nurtured this programme," said one disgruntled commentator. But that's not really true, is it? Bake Off is made by a private company, and the BBC paid for the right to screen it.

Now, if Channel 4 is willing to pay more, and relieve the licence-payer of the cost, then that's a good deal all round.

As for those devoted fans worried about their favourite series, here is a simple piece of advice. Press the button with a number '4' on it, and the programme will appear.

The impish outlook of Sir Terry Wogan

Sir Lenny Henry is among the portraits

David captures smooth 007 Daniel Craig

Joan Collins is every inch the film star

Stars in the frame as artist goes it alone

Celebrity portraits painted by Rugeley artist David Brevitt are on show at Cannock Library. **NATHAN BRIANT** reports

ARTIST David Brevitt is taking his star-studded collection and going it alone for a new exhibition.

The work of the 69-year-old from Rugeley includes portraits of Dudley funnyman Sir Lenny Henry, boxer Floyd Mayweather, film star Joan Collins and the four members of The Rolling Stones, Charlie Watts, Keith Richards, Sir Mick Jagger and Ronnie Wood.

Other paintings include James Bond actor Daniel Craig and comedian and broadcaster Michael Palin.

Mr Brevitt has gone solo for the first time to show off his work, at Cannock Chase Library until September 30, during regular library hours. He has previously featured in other displays in Rugeley and Stafford when fellow artists' work sat alongside his.

Retired

Mr Brevitt started to paint more when he retired as a surveyor six years ago. He said it usually took him a very short time to paint the pictures, typically about two to three days.

He added: "I get fed up if I am working any longer so they need to go down quickly."

Mr Brevitt, of Richardson Way, added: "I developed my ability to paint over many years and now I am retired from work I use the extra time available to improve my technique. I believe my recent paintings are the best I have ever done.

"The paintings in this exhibition are just a sample of my work. I prefer portraits because each one is unique and has to be accurate both in form and colour. I also paint landscapes, animals and still life."

A number of the people in the exhibition have recently died. They included pop star Prince, Terry Wogan and Muhammad Ali.

He said he had chosen to paint these celebrities as a tribute, working from photographs and painting their image from the snapshot as a 'memento' to their memory and their influence.

Simple

Mr Brevitt said getting his work display at the Manor Avenue venue for the duration of the month was a simple procedure. "I phoned them up and asked them to do it," he said. "I set them up last Thursday and I have got them here for a whole month. Some come out better than others but they all take the same amount of effort."

Most of the paintings are on sale for £40 but the Rolling Stones' picture is on sale for £80.

For more information on how to get lessons from Mr Brevitt or his exhibition call him on 01889 577150 or email him on hjblb@aol.com

Rugeley artist David Brevitt shows his portrait of the Rolling Stones

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So, we are all in it together are we...

WHEN David Cameron became Prime Minister he repeated the phrase, "We are all in it together!" I was often mystified and puzzled as to what he meant. Who was the 'we' he referred to? Surely not the general public including an ordinary Joe like me?

His Government pegged pay rises across the public sector at one per cent and told us that Great Britain could not afford more. Was this the meaning of his phrase? That we stand together as services get cut beyond the bone? It has taken a while for me to understand, but now I do.

Before Cameron resigned he gave his aides pay rises of up to 24 per cent. For example, Ameet Gill, former director of strategy, and Liz Sugg, former head of operations at Downing Street, received rises of 23 per cent. Ms Sugg was also honoured with a life peerage. So the 'we' of 'we are all in it together' refers to Cameron and his cronies.

I feel I should mention Mr Narinder Saroop who served in the military and served as a Conservative councillor in Kensington and Chelsea. He has just returned his CBE and stated the reason: 'I wish to do so because of the cavalier attitude towards the honours system as displayed by Messrs Blair and Cameron bringing it into disrepute. It is the demeaning contempt for it as practised by Blair and Cameron which has led to such disenchantment about an otherwise honourable institution.'

What a principled stance in contrast to the two ex-Prime Ministers he refers to. So, when Cameron said, 'we are all in it together' he did not really mean us at all, but was speaking to his chums.

C STOLL
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

No point in calling the police

THE police are planning a clamp down on illegal bikers. A few weeks ago there was a crowd of illegal bikers riding through Sedgley through to Coseley.

I phoned for the police and told them exactly what was happing, they hung up.

So a few nights ago two stupid idiots – sorry should that be silly boys? – were doing wheelies on quad bikes down the road.

What did I do? Nothing. What is the point? No one will take any notice.

There are so many laws that are difficult to police – driving without seat belts, children not secured in the car, smoking when there are children in the car, using a mobile phone whilst driving, drinking and driving.

So many laws, not enough police out and about.

There used to be a beat bobby who knew what was happening on his/her patch. They have disappeared.

NORMAN D CADDICK
Coseley

Signs are Brexit is no blow to economy

IF David Taylor thinks he is reading the stock market correctly, he needs to find a new tutor (Letters, September 8).

He is right to say that the FTSE index contains a high proportion of companies that have income in dollars, but the smaller FT250 mainly has companies operating in the domestic market. This market has risen by six per cent since before the Brexit vote.

He also wrote his thoughts before the Purchasing Managers Index, which rose from 47 to 53 in August, which gives further evidence that the economy at the moment is very sound. This index is regarded as a good guide to the state of the UK economy.

He can forget the idea about a further vote on the result – this is not going to happen.

Mr Taylor is amongst a large group of people who cannot accept the result of the referendum.

He needs to accept the decision of 17 million voters and make the best of a decision which they believe is the best option.

ROY SLIMM
Dudley

High price of children's replica strip

IS it just me or is anybody else appalled at the extortionate prices charged for children's replica football strips? This week I bought a Wolves one for my five-year old grandson which set me back a hefty £66. It did include, I must mention, two numbers on the back of the shirt at £4 each!

My criticism is in no way directed particularly at Wolves – of whom our family have been lifelong supporters – but at league and premier clubs in general.

Surely it would eventually be in their own interest to market these kits cheaper, as these kids are their next generation of supporters and should, I would have thought, be given every encouragement?

Quite frankly I don't know how nowadays young 'footie-loving' families manage to keep up with the game's prices in general – and it's a 'working man's game!'

JILL SHEPPARD
Halesowen

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Banned driver is jailed after reaching 70mph on 'test drive'

A BANNED drunk-driver, who led police on a high-speed chase and reached 70mph on residential streets, has been jailed for 16 months.

Trevor Mills was spotted driving too fast in Cinder Bank, Dudley, by a police patrol at around 10.30pm on August 10. He then ignored the attempts of the officers to get him to stop.

The 27-year-old reached over 70mph in a 30mph zone as he raced through residential streets where cars were parked on both sides of the road, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

He failed to stop at a red light on a blind junction before almost crashing into a lorry, said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting. Mr Searle said: "It was grossly excessive speed."

Mills was pursued by two police cars for more than four miles before finally giving up his bid to escape.

The jobless father-of-three from Westfield Road, Netherton, who had downed five cans of lager, was near the end of a four-year driving ban.

Panicked

The court heart that he gave a breath test reading of 75 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath, more than double the legal limit of 35.

Mr Stephen Bailey, defending, said: "He panicked when he saw the police car and did not come to his senses for over four miles. He had bought the car as the end of the disqualification neared and hoped to do it up. Stupidly, he was on a test drive when this happened."

Mills pleaded guilty to driving dangerously while disqualified and over the drink-drive limit without insurance. He was sent to prison by Judge Amjad Nawaz, who said: "This was a persistent piece of bad driving and the only reason nobody was injured was the lateness of the hour."

Motorcylist inquest is adjourned

AN INQUEST has opened on a 20-year-old man who came off his motorbike in Brierley Hill.

Elliot Beddow, from Bridgnorth Road, Stourton, died after a crash on Brettell Lane in the early hours of September 3.

The apprentice engineer was riding his Harley Davidson when, at around 2.10am, he collided with railings and a wall as he came around a right-hand bend on the crest of a hill.

The inquest that opened in Oldbury this week heard Mr Beddow sustained multiple injuries and, despite the efforts of emergency services, he was pronounced dead at the scene.

The inquest has now been adjourned by Black Country senior coroner Zafar Siddique until October 25.

After his death, Mr Beddow's mother Katie paid tribute to her son.

She said: "We have lost the brightest light, our ray of sunshine and the family joker."

Deli on track with Scotsman deal

Caterers Jodie Mondon-Lines and Mandy Mondon, of the Deli in the Village at Hagley, celebrate their contract success

THE visit of Flying Scotsman to the Severn Valley Railway has brought a business opportunity steaming in for a catering company based in Hagley.

The Deli in the Village, which is owned and managed by Jodie Mondon-Lines, has been chosen to cater for nearly a thousand of the famous locomotives passengers.

They will be travelling on the VIP Charity Day services, hauled by Flying Scotsman on September 21.

Jodie has been building up her catering business for six years, and tells of how winning the contract is a dream come true.

She explained: "This is a huge break for the Deli in the Village and a real chance to really put ourselves on the map for high-end catering. The scale of the project is much bigger than anything I've done before."

Jodie, from Hagley, will be providing luxury picnic hampers for VIP guests on board the three Flying Scotsman services on the first day of the loco's six-day residency at the SVR. Her brief is to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner hampers that are suitable for on-board dining.

The Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust is putting on the special day to raise funds for the volunteer-run railway, which is on a scenic route between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.

The trust's Shelagh Paterson said: "It was important to offer our VIP guests a selection of wonderful things to eat during their journey. We chose the Deli in the Village because of its reputation as a provider of locally-sourced, high quality food."

Celebrating the role of older people

AN EVENT celebrating the role older people play in society takes place in Brierley Hill later this month.

Older People's Day is part of a national campaign which encourages people to hold an event or do something special to celebrate the senior years.

Age Alliance is holding a celebration event on Thursday, September 29, at Brierley Hill Methodist Church.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health, said: "The role older people play in our society is invaluable. Having worked hard in their careers, raising families, contributing to their local communities and ultimately raising a new generation, older people have skills and experiences which are still of use and interest today.

"Older People's Day allows us to celebrate the role older people have played and continue to play in our society and I hope will help us to remember and be grateful for their contribution.

"This event is a way of saying thank you and ensuring older people still feel acknowledged, appreciated and part of their communities."

The free event at the Bank Street church runs from 10.30am to 2.30pm. To book a free place call (01384) 354508 or email michelle.raan@ageukdudley.org.uk

Orchestra at church for children's charity

STAFFORD Chamber Orchestra will be performing a concert in Holy Trinity Parish Church in Wordsley next month.

They will be joined by organist Paul Carr for performances of works by Saint-Saëns, Poulenc and Bizet on October 1 at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £10 with proceeds going to the Chris Westwood Foundation for Children With Physical Disabilities.

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LEGO show anticipation is building up

BRICKLIVE, the UK's biggest LEGO celebration, returns to the NEC, Birmingham building an even bigger show with more LEGO bricks, amazing fan builds and the latest launches.

This year's BRICKLIVE, October 27-30, is set to feature more than 70 of the best amateur builders from around the world displaying their fantastic creations in the Fan Zone – three times the amount on offer in 2015.

One of the biggest builds will be a giant replica of the castle from Disney's Beauty and the Beast, built by Kevin Hall from Brick Galleria. Standing at two metres tall and one-and-a-half metres square at its base, the castle features all the iconic moments from the film including Belle and the Beast dancing on a revolving floor. There will also be more than three million LEGO bricks for fans of all ages to build with as well as 'have-a-go' areas where visitors can contribute to bigger builds such as a huge map of the UK waiting to be filled with houses, monuments and iconic landmarks.

The BRICKLIVE stage will showcase new releases and developments in LEGO gaming, give a sneak preview of forthcoming LEGO sets, welcome special guests, and even test the building skills of fans in the popular Brick Off!

Visitors can race their own LEGO car, take a dance class or create their own mini-figure. Plus, there's Brick Lane featuring vintage and rare LEGO sets along with accessories and collectables.

General admission tickets are from £20 or upgrade to a Premium ticket for £35. Visit www.bricklive.co.uk

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Awards for officers who rescued man on ledge

From left, Sgt Rob Simpson, Insp Jamie Hobday, Chief Constable Dave Thompson, Insp Steve Gordon and PCSO John Link

FOUR officers who helped calm a distressed man who threatened to jump from a bridge over a busy road in the Black Country have been honoured.

The officers worked for more than an hour to bring the man down from the Hall Street bridge above Duncan Edwards Way in Dudley during the tense incident last July.

Now they have been recognised by West Midlands Police's Chief Constable for their quick-thinking actions.

Police Community Support Officer John Link was the first to arrive at the scene of the incident.

He found the man, who had one arm in a sling, sitting on the wrong side of the ledge in the heavy rain.

PCSO Link immediately tried to build up a rapport to defuse the situation and bring him down safely.

He was joined shortly afterwards by Inspector Steve Gordon and the pair spent over an hour trying to talk the man down.

As fears grew of the man's precarious position, PCSO Link held onto him and was joined by Inspector Jamie Hobday as they feared that the man would fall. Sgt Rob Simpson then decided to use a belt to tie around the man's chest in a bid to hold him safely until help arrived.

The officers, who are all based in Dudley, held on for several minutes until they were joined by specialist firefighters and paramedics. As a team they were then able to lift the man, who was now unconscious, over the bridge and to safety.

Last week the officers attended a ceremony at West Midlands Police Tally Ho centre, in Edgbaston, where they were presented with Chief Constable's Awards by Chief Constable Dave Thompson.

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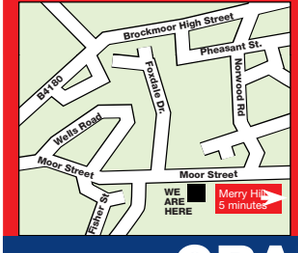

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Jobs at double for twin sisters

TWIN sisters from Cradley Heath are two of the latest young people to benefit from a Sandwell Council scheme to help get young people into jobs and apprenticeships.

Kim and Chloe Gorton, aged 18, are both working as apprentice support workers at Options for Life, a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities.

The sisters are studying for Level 2 NVQs in health and social care. Chloe works at the charity's base in Oldbury and Kim works at the branch in Whiteheath. Kim started her apprenticeship eight months ago and enjoyed it so much, she convinced her sister to join her just eight weeks back. Kim said: "I love it here. We support about 70 people with learning disabilities and it's very rewarding." Chloe added: "Kim was enjoying her apprenticeship so much, I decided to apply and I'm really enjoying it."

To find out more about the Sandwell Guarantee scheme visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/guarantee or call 0121 569 2099.

Metro Mayor 'will wield real power' says minister

COMMUNITIES secretary Sajid Javid has vowed that the new West Midlands 'Metro Mayor' will have the power to enact real change.

Criticism has been levelled at the post, with West Midlands' Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson labelling it a 'toothless tiger' and Labour's candidate for the role, former MP Sion Simon, saying the position needs beefing up.

However, Mr Javid, MP for Bromsgrove, aid that the metro mayor will wield 'real power' and would 'decide what is best for the region'.

Mr Javid highlighted the bid for a new Enterprise Zone in Brierley Hill – which could create 6,000 jobs – as an example of regional cooperation.

He said: "I think these devolution deals are hugely important for local growth. For example Dudley's bid for an Enterprise Zone requires joined-up thinking – particularly around transport in and out of Birmingham.

"That joined-up thinking only comes when you work together."

Mr Javid added: "When there is a mayor in places that will mean more leadership across the region. All the mayors, including in the West Midlands, will have power under the new devolved powers. They can look at issues like infrastructure, like transport, and like adult skills. The mayor will be able to look at that across the region and decide what is best for the region and how it best fits.

"The West Midlands will get an additional £36 million a year over 30 years and use that money as the Combined Authority decides. That's real power and only happening because you have got a mayor."

Mr Javid refuted suggestions the West Midlands had been over-shadowed by Manchester and the 'Northern Powerhouse' – saying all regions will benefit from the deal.

Sajid Javid – 'best for region'

Apprentice fund is worrying MP

MP for Dudley North, Ian Austin, has slammed Government proposals to slash apprenticeship funding.

The Government's Skills Funding Agency has announced potential cuts to funding rates for 16 to 18-year-old apprentices of around 30 per cent.

Mr Austin said he was concerned the cuts could prevent young people in the Black Country from accessing vocational training and careers they want.

He has joined 54 of his Labour colleagues in writing to the Skills Minister Robert Halfon urging him to rethink the cuts and support young people looking to start work. Mr Austin added: "Everyone knows savings have to be made but slashing funding for apprenticeships hits young people that want to work hard and get on. That's why I'm urging the Government to think again."

Got a ring stuck on my finger – for you

Jodi Vincent and fiancé Mark Edwards Pic: Highgate Fire

WHEN firefighter Jodi Vincent was called out to help a man in Birmingham with a ring stuck on his finger she was in for a major surprise. For when she arrived at Grand Central she found herself facing a dilemma – whether to say 'yes'.

The 'casualty' was actually her boyfriend Mark Edwards who immediately got down on one knee to ask for her hand in marriage. Luckily for him, Jodi said yes, cheered on by her colleagues who were in on the ruse which was months in the planning.

Now the happy couple, from Hagley, have been amazed by the support they have received after the proposal was filmed and shared on Twitter. "He did well," said Jodi. "It was such a shock. I had no idea."

Her fiancé worked with her colleagues at Highgate Fire Station, in Birmingham, to arrange the surprise. with Jodi thinking she was going to help a man in a sticky situation in a city centre jewellers. The 35-year-old firefighter admitted she was surprised when Mark, a 33-year-old accounts manager, appeared with the engagement ring.

£8m fleet of luxury buses are on the way

A new £8 million fleet of luxurious buses has arrived in the Black Country.

The new 'Platinum' National Express West Midlands service boasts comfier seats, more legroom, free 4G wifi and USB points to charge your mobile phone or electronic device.

Forty-six of the new buses will be introduced to the 126 service between Wolverhampton and Birmingham and the X10 service between Merry Hill and Birmingham later in the autumn. The stylish new vehicles already run on the 529 service between Wolverhampton and Walsall

Passengers will also be able to pay using contactless cards when the new technology is is rolled out by National Express next year.

Managing Director Peter Coates said: "When the roll-out is finished, these luxurious new buses will be carrying passengers in every district in the Black Country."

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Auctioneer is guest at annual lunch

West Mids Federation

THE Annual Luncheon for the West Midlands Federation of Townswomen's Guilds was held at Vesuvio's restaurant in Stourbridge.

Chairman Margaret Tew gave a very warm welcome to all guild members and invited guests.

An excellent three-course meal was served and the Federation president Christine Yorke said Grace.

Following the meal Jean Williams proposed the loyal toast to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and Margaret proposed the toast to all guilds within the West Midlands Federation and thanked everyone for their loyal support throughout the year.

Margaret then introduced the speaker for the afternoon, Allison Snowdon from Fieldings auctioneers in Stourbridge.

She gave a very interesting and sometimes amusing talk about various items that had been brought into the auction rooms to be valued.

Allison circulated a small portfolio of photographs to members which contained items of some value and described each one in great detail.

Betty Davies gave the vote thanks to Allison on behalf of all members.

Dorothy Edwards thanked the committee for organising the luncheon and for all their hard work.

The next event for guild members will be the Harvest Lunch which is being held on Wednesday September 28 at Wollaston Village Hall.

Criteria for making it into Yellow Book

Clent Gardening Club

THE August meeting welcomed David Morgan from Bromsgrove to give a talk entitled NGS – Is my garden good enough?

David is the National Garden Scheme co-ordinator for Worcestershire. One of his duties is to inspect gardens to assess their suitability for opening for the public under the auspices of this charitable scheme.

He began by outlining its origins. With the aid of photographs he illustrated some of the local gardens in Worcestershire which have been included part of the scheme commonly known as the 'Yellow Book'.

David outlined the criteria for including a garden, including such items as interest, quirkiness, ornamental features and the more practical matters such as car parking and health and safety.

Some £2.7m was donated to charity in 2015 as a result of the national scheme and Roger exhorted all members to consider opening their gardens.

The chairman thanked David for his illuminating and entertaining talk before drawing the raffle and reminding members that the following Saturday was the annual, show marking its 70th anniversary.

On September 23, Nigel Hope will give a talk on A Year at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Members enjoy a summer party

Grange E Guild

THE guild does not usually meet in August but the committee decided to host a summer evening party for all members.

Following a very short meeting members enjoyed a meal consisting of a wide variety of sandwiches, homemade cakes and strawberries with fresh cream followed by tea and coffee. The food was all prepared and served by the committee and their helpers.

The entertainment was provided by committee members and consisted of a couple of sketches including their version of Pygmalion with apologies to George Bernard Shaw and a shortened version of Snow White. These all went down well with the audience and caused a lot of laughter.

There was also a couple of poems and another short sketch showing two friends, Rose and Daisy looking over the garden wall admiring the flowers and making comments about them all.

Margaret Blower congratulated the committee on their performances and thanked them all for organising the party and for all their hard work. She said how much it had all been enjoyed and gave a vote of thanks on behalf of all the members.

The raffle was then drawn with many prize winners.

Toast raised to ex-chairman

Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle

THE ladies met after the August break, at The Royal British Legion, Kingswinford.

Each lady received a glass of wine and they raised a toast to ex-chairman and friend Audrey Phipps who died in February. She worked tirelessly for the Ladies Circle for more than 30 years and is sadly missed.

Chairman Sheila Evans welcomed everyone and accepted apologies. Business matters were read, approved and signed. Sheila is making arrangements for the Christmas lunch, Ann gave details of the outing to Trentham.

The ladies then enjoyed a delightful Harvest supper prepared by the committee. After the supper all gifts on the harvest table were auctioned by Sheila and £70 was raised for a charity to be decided.

Villagers set for battle over quarry at marina

VILLAGERS are preparing for a battle with developers planning a quarry as part of a marina development in Swindon, near Wall Heath.

By Nick Humphreys

Fresh plans have been submitted by MHJ Ltd to Staffordshire County Council for the extraction of sand and gravel at the 22-acre High Street site, and the back-filling of the hole with imported waste.

Last year it was revealed developers were investigating creating a quarry. Now plans have been submitted.

Work started on the marina in May 2014, which could see the population of the area double. People living in the village are unsure whether the marina will ever be built, given that the only work completed is the digging of a small trench.

Residents are worried a quarry would bring noisy vehicles and diesel fumes to the village.

Gordon Fanthom, who lives in the area, said: "We are preparing for battle yet again with the unwanted marina developers. As the site is between the canal and a small river, the green belt site would be better put to use as a lovely park and public open space for the benefit of villagers and visitors without bringing a quarry and 199 diesel engine boats into the heart of our village.

"Swindon village could be subjected to 45,000 HGV movements over a minimum two-year period or put another way 100 HGV movements per day.

"The initial application is for a two-year period which is considered a very short time in quarrying terms and it's expected that the developers will request extensions after the initial two-year period."

Fellow campaigner Malcolm Roach said the roads were unsuitable and had potholes in them already. There is also a school bus that picks up and drops off.

Victorian painting sells for £12,000

The incomplete paining by Sir Edwin Henry Landseer sold to a buyer in New York over the phone

A PAINTING by an English artist who was once commissioned by Queen Victoria fetched £12,000 at a Stourbridge auction.

The unfinished work painted Sir Edwin Henry Landseer, who also created the lion statues for Nelson's Column in London, was sold to an art collector in New York over the phone. It was brought to Fieldings Auctioneers by a Stourbridge man who had inherited the painting.

The auctioneer's art appraiser, Bill Lacey, said they believed the work, called A Highland Gentleman, was a sketch for a famous later painting by Landseer.

Mr Lacey said: "He is a very famous name and one of Queen Victoria's artists. This painting was more a sketch for one of his later paintings. We think it could have been for his very famous painting called the Death of the Wild Bull, (the man) looks very much like one of the figures in the later painting."

Another famous English painter whose work went under the hammer was LS Lowry, famous for his industrial landscapes with matchstick figures. A sketch went for £5,200.

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Drone gives bird's eye view of blaze devastation

THIS is one of a series of images from a drone that shows the level of devastation caused by a massive fire at the Hickory's Smokehouse restaurant in Wall Heath.

Much of the thatched roof building which housed the popular American-style restaurant and was formerly the Kingfisher Country Club, collapsed in on itself due to the severity of the fire.

Flames tore through the restaurant, which had only been open since November last year, as around 100 firefighters tackled last month's blaze, which was caused by an electrical fault in a fridge.

Footage of the ruined restaurant was captured by student Joe Baker, who flew his drone over the building.

Joe, who is 17 and a student at King Edward VII College in Stourbridge, runs a YouTube account dedicated to catching some of the Black Country's most famous buildings from the air.

The owners of the Kidderminster Road venue, which has five branches in total in the UK, have pledged to rebuild the restaurant and hope to get it open again in spring.

The owners also thanked local people and customers for messages of support.

A drone image of the devastation caused by last month's fire at Hickory's Smokehouse in Wall Heath

Sixpence programme has sold for £280

A RARE programme from the 1931 FA Cup final between West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham City has been snapped up at auction in Stourbridge.

The programme sold for £280 to a private collector at Fieldings Auctioneers.

It originally belonged to a HW Johnson, who made cabinets in Brierley Hill, and was passed down to members of his family. However, it remained stored in a box as the descendent was a Wolves fan and so stayed in relatively good condition.

The game was Albion's third FA Cup triumph as they defeated Blues 2-1 in the all-West Midlands affair at Wembley in front of more than 92,000.

Andrew Mayall, from Fieldings, said the programme was attractive to collectors due to its condition and the fact it dated from before the Second World War. The programe originally cost sixpence.

Police face huge bill for Tory conference

A MASSIVE £460,000 of the West Midlands Police budget is having to be spent preparing for the Tory party conference in Birmingham next month.

The conference takes place from October 2 to 5 at the ICC, at Centenary Square, and the cash is coming directly out of the region's public policing purse.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has slammed the cost considering cuts to the force's budget and believes resources would be better spent on local policing.

Commissioner Jamieson

He also demanded that the issue is resolved swiftly, or the force could incur a huge bill of around £1.5 million over the next four years.

The cost of policing this year's event is £2.1 million, with the rest coming from elsewhere.

In 2014, the bill for the conference rose to more than £500,000 for West Midlands Police.

Mr Jamieson told of how the budget cuts suffered by the force had been the biggest in the country.

Priority

He said: "I welcome political parties bringing their conferences to the West Midlands as they provide an important boost to the economy. I want to see more conferences, not fewer.

"And the safety of people attending conferences will always be of the highest priority.

"Policing across the region will continue as normal despite extra resources being allocated to the conference.

"The policing taking place during the conference will be paid for but one crucial element will not. For big events like the Conservative Party Conference, a dedicated planning team of 24 officers and staff is required.

"The team from West Midlands Police began work for this year's conference last autumn and is costing approximately £460,000 – that's £460,000 the Home Office will not pay for."

He added: "Significantly, in 2014 when Birmingham last hosted the conference, the costs of this planning team reached £520,000. With Birmingham set to host the Conservative Party Conference again in 2018 and 2020, the next four years could cost the force £1.5m if this issue is not resolved."

West Midlands Police has suffered the largest budget cuts of any force in the country.

"It's been £130million since 2010 and, despite promises to the contrary, West Midlands Police is still receiving cuts of £2.5m a year."

The Police and Crime Commissioner has written to Home Secretary, Amber Rudd MP about the issue.

Pub gets a revamp

A PUB has received a six-figure revamp in a move that has created nine new jobs.

The Mount Pleasant pub in Ounsdale Road, Wombourne, has had its kitchen remodelled and the whole venue has been redecorated.

The work, which cost £163,000, also saw new signage installed, the beer garden given a makeover and toilets updated.

The new landlady Nicola Williams said: "I've worked in pubs in the past and always wanted to run my own. Now my family has grown up I feel it's the right time to turn my dream into reality. I'm very excited about my new challenge and determined to give it my best shot."

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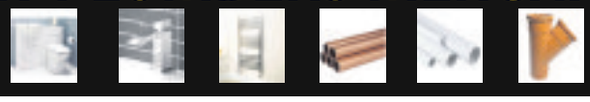

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Dan sings about things that matter

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

WOLVERHAMPTON singer-songwriter Dan Whitehouse broadens his sound to encompass soul and country elements on his That's Where I Belong album.

His first for Reveal Records and his fourth album in total since 2012 should hopefully make more music fans aware of this gifted songsmith's heart-felt balladry. Drawing on real life, love and family, the things that matter, his songs connect with people and will be warmly received by those tired of the gimmicks and cynicism of an increasingly stale pop and rock scene.

Opening track Nothing's Gonna Change It has a gently funky soul vibe, Close Up features harmonies from Jess Morgan and a poignant pedal steel guitar from the great BJ Cole, followed by a title track that is a rocking slice of classic prime Americana.

Work is a hand-clapping fuzzy guitar chugger with a retro 70s feel that celebrates loyalty, The Little Left Unsaid is an emotive piano-led ballad and You Brought The Sunshine is the kind of muscled folk-rocker that one could imagine Mumford and Co propelling into the stratosphere.

The Places We Have Been is pure modern country floating on a cloud of steel guitar and enhanced by subtle brass, CCC is a soulful rocker and the album closes with the emotive stripped back and sensitive vocal and guitar of The Left Handed Way.

Recorded in London, Glasgow and Dudley studios, produced by Chris Clarke and Danny George Wilson of Danny and the Champions of the World, this album find Dan Whitehouse appealing to a broad audience without compromising his musical integrity.

Wolverhampton singer-songwriter Dan Whitehouse – soul and country influences

The album also includes a bonus CD of a live recording of songs featuring songs from the latest album, the self-titled debut and 2013's Reaching For A State Of Mind.

Dan Whitehouse will be in concert with Boo Hewerdine at the Kitchen Garden Cafe in Kings Heath on October 5.

It is evident from **Wild World**, the new album from **Bastille**, that the huge success of their debut Bad Blood was no flash in the pan – the irrepressible catchiness of Good Grief says that loud and clear. The London outfit defy genre boundaries with their emotional operatic pop. Frontman Dan Smith gives it everything as he expresses his 21st century angst, particularly on the drum 'n' bass propelled The Currents.

The album is peppered with dialogue from old movies (remember when Big Audio Dynamite did that?), framing songs that have plenty of hooks but also lyrics that reflect unease. More thoughtful than most of their pop peers, they are nearer to Coldplay than The X Factor wanna-be pop stars. Other highlights include Warmth, the Depeche Mode-like Blame, the R&B flavoured Fake It and the horns and bombast of Send Them Off!

Bastile are in concert at the Barclaycard Arena on November 8.

Here, Scottish band **Teenage Fanclub**'s first album in six years, finds the 1990s indie favourites in a very good place with songs that exude warmth, positivism and contentment.

The guitar-driven songs are massively melodic and enhanced by laid-back harmony vocals. The feel-good factor is obvious from the get-go with I'm In Love. The happy vibe continues on Hold On, an arm-round-your-mate anthem, even The Darkest Part Of The Night can't conceal a satisfied smile with its catchy Americana style.

Other highlights include I Have Nothing More To Say with its gentle psych guitar cycle, The First Sight with muted brass fanfare, the chilled Steady State and poignant closer Connected To Life. Teenage Fanclub are in concert at the Birmingham O2 Institute, in Digbeth, on November 28.

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Country folk flock to fair at Weston Park

Children and adults can experience falconry and other country pursuits at the game fair at Weston Park this weekend

FANS of hunting, shooting, fishing and outdoor pursuits will be flocking to Weston Park this weekend for the 33rd annual Midland Game Fair.

The two-day outdoor show in the grounds of the mansion near Albrighton is Britain's largest countryside-themed event and is set to welcome around 90,000 visitors and 700 exhibitors.

As one of the central focal points of the much-loved show, the crammed Le Chameau Main Arena schedule will include Adams Axemen, the crazy Lamb National Sheep Race and the Essex Dog Display Team.

There is an array of grand finals in many sporting disciplines and also a comprehensive have-a-go itinerary for the whole family, including gundog handling, clay shooting, archery, fishing, falconry and ferreting.

Spitfire

A special addition for visitors this year is that on both days they can thrill to a spectacular aerial display by that icon of the Battle of Britain, the Spitfire. Subject to cloud cover, the seven minute display will see the 1944 mark 9 Spitfire perform numerous daredevil manoeuvres including victory rolls, barrel rolls and numerous fly passes over the crowd.

There will be music stages specialising in folk, roots, jazz, blues, Celtic and country, and a food festival, rural crafts, working dog and fishing villages.

The fair opens each day at 8.30am with last entry at 3.30pm. Tickets cost £20 on the day (£18 in advance) and under-16s are free when accompanied by a paying adult. Weekend and camping tickets are available. For further information visit www.midlandgamefair.co.uk or the fair's Facebook page.

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, September 15, 2016

Livia's Raw Millionaire Bites are a bestseller in Selfridges

Livia's new book reveals many of her recipes for sweet treats which don't make her ill

Life's sweet – without relying on refined sugar

By Kate Whiting

LIFE doesn't get much sweeter than biting into a warm honey cake, fresh from the oven.

But in this kitchen, there's no refined sugar – nor gluten or dairy, for that matter – in sight. This is Livia's – aka Olivia Wollenberg's – kitchen, and she's made her name by baking with more gut-friendly alternatives to the white stuff.

Wollenberg started off baking and selling hundreds of fresh crumbles from her mum's kitchen in North London, and now has a range of Raw Millionaire Bites – her gluten, dairy and refined sugar-free answer to millionaire's shortbread, filled with gooey date caramel – which are a bestseller in Selfridges' Food Hall.

Her honey loaf cake uses raw honey, coconut palm sugar and ground almonds instead of flour, with coconut oil standing in for butter – ingredients which don't make her feel ill when she fancies a treat.

Like her friend Ella Woodward of Deliciously Ella fame (Wollenberg made the 14-layer cake at Woodward's Mustique wedding in April), it was her own health problems that eventually inspired Wollenberg to revolutionise her approach to eating – and then turn it into a business idea.

"I was always the person at three o'clock who would be like, 'I need some chocolate, I need a cupcake'. I think a lot of people feel that – a working day is really long. Even at school, I was excited for my mum to pick me up because I knew she would come with Nutella sandwiches in the car," confesses the 27-year-old, whose naturally sweet recipes are featured in her debut cookbook, Livia's Kitchen.

Sensitive

"I was always just living for food. But my stomach got more and more sensitive. I would go out for dinner with my friends on a Saturday night and never be able to join them at a bar afterwards because I was in so much pain. I didn't want to go and see a doctor because I still wanted to go for pizza, and I was so scared they would say to me, 'You can't eat gluten and dairy any more', so I just put up with it."

In spring 2014, things were so bad that her mum, who she was still living with at the time, told her enough was enough. "She said, 'You're not nourishing your body because what you're eating is just not staying in'," recalls Wollenberg.

She finally saw a nutritionist, who made her keep a food diary for two weeks.

"She looked at the first two pages and said, 'Just what I thought, you're someone who's going to need to follow a FODMAP diet'. And I was like, 'A FODMAP what?'"

FODMAPs are short-chain carbohydrates that can be poorly absorbed in the small intestine, resulting in IBS-like symptoms for some. Reactions can, of course, vary in severity. Among the worst offenders are onions and garlic, which Wollenberg now avoids entirely – "even a trace can make me really sick".

Honey Loaf Cake is made with ground almonds and coconut oil

Summer Peach Crumble is another of the recipes

Livia's Kitchen by Olivia Wollenberg, Ebury Press

For six weeks, she had to cut out a whole list of possible trigger foods, including apples, with the idea she'd then be able to gradually reintroduce them again.

"Most people can reintroduce 90 per cent of foods and have one or two they cut out. I pretty much couldn't reintroduce anything, except apples."

Although she now says the restricted diet "ruined my life", it also set her on a path to swapping academia (she'd been studying neuroscience at UCL) for entrepreneurship.

"The thing I was most miserable about was having something indulgent and delicious without any gluten, dairy and refined sugar.

"So I started looking at blogs online and people were talking about using natural sugars, like dates, maple syrup, coconut sugar, and them reacting better with their body.

"I just started playing around because I needed a three o'clock pick-me-up. At the time it wasn't a business idea, it was just to keep me going because I was so miserable."

She also realised what she'd thought were healthy options, weren't always the best thing.

"I would have frozen yoghurt instead of ice cream, but frozen yoghurt is crazy high in sugar. I would say to people now, go for a full-fat option if you can eat dairy, just because there's less put in it.

"I also think life's too short to always be thinking how many cubes of sugar are in something. If granola's your favourite thing, just try and eat one which has less sugar in it and you'll be fine," Wollenberg adds.

"Don't limit yourself with things you love."

RECIPES

HONEY LOAF CAKE

Softened coconut oil, for greasing the tin

320g jumbo oats, ground to an oatmeal before using (or 290g ground almonds and 30g buckwheat flour)

250g raw honey

110g coconut palm sugar

75g melted raw coconut oil (odourless)

Juice and zest of 1 big orange

1tbsp grated fresh ginger

1/2tsp ground nutmeg

2tsps ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 180C/350F/Gas mark 4.

Mix all the ingredients in a mixing bowl with a spoon.

Line a 20cm x 11cm loaf tin with greaseproof paper.

Pour the mixture into the loaf tin.

Bake for 35-40 minutes until the top is golden and slightly cracked. The cake will cool as it firms, but there should still be a slightly softer, wetter middle.

SUMMER PEACH CRUMBLE

(Serves 8)

For the filling:

800g stoned and chopped peaches (skins on)

100ml maple syrup

1tsp vanilla powder

For the crumble topping:

200g ground oats (grind jumbo oats to an oatmeal before using) or oat flour

200g jumbo oats

5tbsps melted raw coconut oil

100ml maple syrup

1/8tsp salt

1 1/2tsp vanilla powder

Coconut yoghurt, to serve

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas mark 4.

Cook the peaches in a saucepan over a medium to low heat with the maple syrup and vanilla powder. Cook for about 20 minutes or until soft.

To a mixing bowl, add the ground oats or oat flour, jumbo oats, coconut oil, maple syrup, salt and vanilla powder and mix thoroughly.

Once the filling is nice and soft, add to an ovenproof dish and top with the crumble mixture.

Bake for 20 minutes until the topping begins to brown.

Serve with a dollop of coconut yoghurt.

Cillian ready to play blinder for right role

CILLIAN Murphy has noticed a shift in his approach in recent years. "I've got a bit more patient in general," he says with a short chuckle.

"The whole nonsense that surrounds the industry, which can be very trying to any sane person wanting to have a normal life. I used to find that very wearing."

Firmly an actor's actor, it's unlikely you'll catch Murphy, who turned 40 in May, ducking in for a selfie with his Dunkirk co-star, Harry Styles, any day soon. Dunkirk is the new Christopher Nolan war film the pair star in which is due out next year.

"It's good to have ambition and hunger and all that, but it's not about being the best, or having the most money or the biggest trailer," he reasons. "It's about trying to really work hard."

Born in Cork, and originally a law student before the lure of playing in a band and ultimately acting came knocking, fulfilling work has always been Murphy's professional guiding star, and not the Hollywood lifestyle that comes with it.

Since his stirring performance in Danny Boyle's 28 Days Later back in 2002, he's more than proved his mettle, immersing himself in roles as diverse as the unnerving Scarecrow in Batman Begins, a passionate IRA freedom fighter in Ken Loach's The Wind That Shakes The Barley and, of course, as intimidating Tommy Shelby in BBC hit Peaky Blinders which has seen the Irish star in the region filming frequently at locations such as the Black Country Living Museum.

After a long spell in London, he's now settled back in Ireland with his artist wife, and their two sons and Labrador puppy.

He says he's constantly asked about career plans – much like the gritty and violent Tommy in the Birmingham, Black Country and London-based gangland drama.

"People always go, 'tell us your strategy'. That's for economists. We don't have a clue what's happening next," says Murphy, looking stylish in a plain button-down blue shirt and jeans, his hair grown back from Tommy Shelby's brutal do. "Genuinely, the whole thing has been chaotic, but you obviously have things you want to do and things you know you won't do – and then life gets in the way and the availability gets in the way. It's entirely random," he says of his own path.

Unpredictability though, is part and parcel of acting.

"It's joyous and terrifying and frustrating, but when it works, it's great," he says.

"In terms of work and the people you work with, you want to try and better that. Not knowing if you're going to be able to sustain that level, I worry about that. But you can't control it."

What you can control, he says, is the work you say yes to.

"I'm more choosy about the stuff I do," he admits. "If I'm going to go away from home and leave the family, it's got to be worthwhile, so that is different than when you're a naive, hungry 20-year-old."

Anthropoid, his latest film, which arrived in cinemas last week, more than ticks these boxes.

The thriller tells the ltrue story of a group of men involved in the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, Hitler's third-in-command, whose regime of terror earned him the nickname the 'Butcher of Prague'.

Knowing Heydrich's death would be a huge blow to the Nazis, the men need to act quickly when his schedule is rearranged, all the while knowing the potential deadly consequences for them and their loved ones.

Alongside Fifty Shades Of Grey star Jamie Dornan, who plays Jan Kubis, Murphy stars as Slovak Josef Gabcik, a fellow soldier from the Czech Army in exile, who is parachuted with Kubis into occupied Czechoslovakia in 1941.

"You get to spend time with the characters. You're actually invested in them. War films work when you can see yourself in that position, and you say to your partner or whoever you're going to see it with, 'what would you do if you were in that situation?'"

Directed by Sean Ellis, the film doesn't shy away from depicting the brutality and torture that featured in Heydrich's regime, something Murphy believes is necessary.

"I hope and I believe that this film doesn't in any way glorify or make it gratuitous in any way, but it's important to show that these people lived besides this all the time," he says.

A fourth series of Peaky Blinders is planned.

A Blinding night had by all at museum

Peaky Blinder style – Kevin Doughty, Lee Davenport, Mathew Fowler, Scott Robinson and Matthew Waterfield

IT was a weekend of flat caps and 1920s dresses as a special Peaky Blinders event packed out the Black Country Living Museum.

More than 3,500 poured into the popular attraction last weekend to get a taste of Blinder life and they were not left disappointed, particularly as several scenes in the popular BBCTV gangster drama were filmed at the Tipton Road museum.

The grounds were altered to give the ultimate Peaky Blinders feel, with props from the set, a barber shop and the risk of running into wild London gangster Alfie Solomons.

Adding to the atmosphere was the attraction's trolley buses, horse and carts, fairground rides, a clothes shop where you could deck yourself out like Tommy Shelby and laser clay pigeon shooting for those who wanted to show they were a good shot.

Popularity

Its popularity was unquestionable with the Black Country Living Museum selling the event out just hours after tickets went on sale with 1,800 people turning out on Friday night and the same number on Saturday night.

Daz Smith, 42, of Netherton, said: "I'm a massive fan and I thought the museum event was really good. I had been a few times anyway but the way they recreated the set was really good with very good attention to detail."

Creator of Peaky Blinders, the Birmingham writer Stephen Knight, has made it clear how much he loves the museum, insisting that much of the fourth series of the worldwide hit show will be filmed there.

At the Birmingham premiere of the third series, he even quipped that he would live at the museum if he could.

● Cillian Murphy interview – see facing page

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Tuning in on vintage style radios still popular

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips

WE ARE often approached by people keen to sell old radios, asking what they might make in the saleroom – the answer depends entirely on the age, make and condition of the set.

There is a market for vintage radios, and not just amongst the collecting fraternity, but they don't tend to sell for huge amounts of money unless they are fairly special.

Some are much more valuable than others.

Large wooden cased radios dating from the 1940s and 1950s look great but are not as much sought after as smaller Bakelite ones.

There are certain names to look out for, such as Bush, Roberts, Philips, Grundig and Marconi, and condition is all important.

Bush began life as Bush Radio in 1932, a subsidiary of the Gaumont British Picture Corporation, joining Rank after the Second World War and launching the legendary Bush TR82 transistor radio in 1959.

Rank subsequently allied with Toshiba and the Bush name vanished from the market until the 1980s when it was bought by the Alba Group.

Bush radios can still be bought today, together with reproductions of earlier sets and radios designed and made by other companies, including the Philco 'cathedral radio' of 1931.

Roberts Radios were another company founded in the early 1930s, by one Harry Roberts and Leslie Bidmead – Leslie apparently sold his motorcycle to help fund their first small factory.

They began by making small portable radios at their London base and quickly expanded over the decades, gaining royal warrants from both the Queen and the Prince of Wales along the way.

You need to establish if your radios are in working order and if they are not it may well be a good idea to get them professionally restored – a radio that is actually usable will sell far better at auction.

You should expect restoration 'tweaks' such as replacement transistors and battery convertors in vintage radios that work.

Do a little research before you get your radios valued, then you'll know what they may be expected to fetch in the saleroom.

Check the cases for any damage and make sure they are clean – if they do need sprucing up do this very carefully, if the condition is poor this work is best left to the professional restorers.

You also need to be sure that your radios are vintage, there are some amazing reproduction versions out there that could fool many people!

Some radios that look original thanks to their 'cabinets' may have been modernised completely inside in order to restore working order. Again this will affect the price.

Perry and Phillips Auctioneers hold sales of antiques and collectables on the first Tuesday of each month. Valuation days, for sale items only, are held every Wednesday at the Mill Street saleroom, in Low Town, Bridgnorth, from 10am until 4pm.

The next sale takes place on Tuesday, October 4, viewing is during the weekend and Monday prior to the auction.

High expectations when shopping on internet

Online shoppers must be patient

HOW impatient are you? Do you often give up before a website loads completely?

It has been reported that most of us won't even wait three seconds for a shopping website to load its content amounting to much lost business for the online sellers and hours of wasted leisure time for us.

Connection and download speeds get constantly faster but the shopping sites are getting slower, this is apparently due to the third party connections to social media, links to Facebook and You Tube just two of the many examples and the ability to chat to a company's sales or service teams online.

We expect high definition photographs, 360 degree views, video and magnified view, full colour and sharing, all the things that allow us to make an informed decision before we part with our hard earned cash are also the reason for the slow down and effectively get in the way of the final sale.

The stores do not want you to return an item so it is crucial they offer as much detail and enjoyment as possible.

The website designers have the ability to do amazing things for our delight but unfortunately it ultimately reduces the chance of a sale.

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis

Many of the IT teams spend the majority of their time keeping things running smoothly and updating content, often not realising the sites are running slowly.

Increase

It is a 'vicious' circle and we should also bear in mind our own personal preferences.

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Many different but simple moves are used in Pilates to strengthen the core muscles of the body and improving alignment

Gentle exercise for the body as well as the mind

Pilates can sports performance too

SOME love the rhythm and solitude of a long Sunday morning run, others get their kicks from the squeals of rubber soles and balls whizzing high-speed around a squash court, while clipping a lead on the dog and braving whatever elements for a stroll on the beach does it for many.

When it comes to moving our bodies, it's different strokes for different folks.

But there's one form of exercise that ticks so many boxes and offers so many benefits – all of which many of us greatly need in our 'Stress Epidemic!', tech-addicted, 'Sitting down is the new smoking!' lives – that whatever else you enjoy, you'd do well to consider giving it a go.

Like thousands of others, it was back pain that first led me to a Pilates studio (just a bog-standard room at the local leisure centre; you don't have to fork out for fancy classes), and it's the closest thing to a panacea I've ever discovered, doing far more than simply improving my posture and providing a top-to-toe stretch.

Here are five reasons to take up Pilates...

1. It encourages us to think of our body and mind as one

By Abi Jackson

Many ancient health philosophies – which, remember, informed much of modern medicine – revolve around holistic principles, which basically means that body and mind are linked. It's something Western societies have lost touch with in modern times, but we only have to look at ourselves and our own experiences to be reminded just how true it is that physical and emotional health are closely intertwined: how you get more colds when you're stressed; why that headache intensifies when you're under pressure; how positive distractions can take the edge off that sore knee.

2. It could make you a better runner/cyclist/tennis player, etc

If you think Pilates isn't 'your thing', because you prefer a particular sport or more vigorous exercise, think again. A strong core, good alignment and even better breathing technique will all help support your body in your fitness pursuits elsewhere. A good core isn't just about blitzing those abs crunches; there's far more to it - and investing a little time in it through Pilates could pay dividends in terms of boosting your overall performance.

3. It can help with chronic pain management

Of course, anybody with a medical condition or chronic pain problems should seek professional advice before embarking on any new exercise regime – but providing you listen to your body, start gently and stay within your limits, Pilates could become a central, possibly even life-changing, part of how you manage your condition in the long-term, both physically and psychologically.

4. It relieves stress

Fans of Pilates are well aware that it works wonders for the mind as well as the body, and a recent study found Pilates really does help us deal with mental and emotional stress. The scientists at the University of Pittsburgh have identified a circuit, which directly links part of the brain to the adrenal medulla (this is the inner part of the adrenal gland, which triggers an adrenal surge when we feel stressed). The very same network is also associated with the part of our brain which controls movements.

5. Physiotherapists often recommend it

When you have a history of injuries or musculoskeletal problems, perhaps associated with back pain it's easy to think you need to avoid physical activity as much as possible. Experts are increasingly trying to highlight that, in fact, the opposite is true, and staying as regularly active as possible is actually vital in managing such problems.

Flying visit as Julie launches art exhibition

Julie Walters pictured with sculptor Luke Perry as she launches the Flying Tales of Folklore exhibition in Smethwick

HARRY Potter and Educating Rita actress Julie Walters showed her 'metal' as she unveiled an exhibition of sculptures created by pupils from her former school.

The film and TV star, who this week features in Channel 4's hard-hitting new drama National Treasure, was back on home turf in Smethwick to cast her eye over an array of metal artworks created by girls from the Youth Quake group.

The girls, who all attend Holly Lodge Primary or Holly Lodge High School, where Walters went as a child, created the Flying Tales of Folklore exhibition with the help of Cradley Heath sculptor Luke Perry.

The works are on display at the Brasshouse Community Centre and are inspired by famous folk stories and fairytales.

"They are really beautiful," said Julie, aged 66, as she viewed the works. "It's a fabulous idea. It's brilliant what they're doing here.

"The sculptures looks really good and it's a wonderful thing for the community to come and look at as well."

Walters, who attended the event with her sister-in-law Jill, said the event had allowed her to enjoy a trip down memory lane.

The Billy Elliot star, who is also famous for her comedies with Victoria Wood, said: "It's changed such a lot since I was last here.

"When I was a child it was a really run down area but it looks like it's improving a lot.

"I love coming back to see my grandsons and great nephews. I love just coming back for a good look around as well, this is where I spent my youth."

Walters stars alongside Robbie Coltrane and Andrea Riseborough in National Treasure, a mini-series inspired by Operation Yewtree.

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REVIEWS

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
Birmingham Hippodrome

A FINE four fendered friend has returned to the West Midlands in a show that oozes West End quality with its all-singing all-dancing spectacle combined with clever video effects.

The car's the star – the Hippodrome has even got Cadbury's to create a model of it in chocolate.

I don't know how Chitty would do on an emissions test but this is one turbo-charged musical that speeds along in top gear. The only bump in the road came when Chitty failed to unfurl one its wings when it first took off. It seems a stage hand with a spanner and an oil can sorted that out in time for the second act.

Lee Mead is every inch the charismatic leading man as inventor Caractacus Potts while Carrie Hope Fletcher (sister of McFly's Tom Fletcher) lives up to her character's name with a Truly Scrumptious performance. The YouTube sensation has a strong and delightful musical theatre voice.

Both leads and the Potts children, Jeremy and Jemima – on Press night played by Elliot Morris and Darcy Snares – have lots of energy (must be the sugar in all those sweets they toot).

The show features the creepiest character to ever feature in a family musical, The Childcatcher, who was heralded on stage by the clever device of having a long pair of arms casting a shadow over the set. Matt Gillet was suitably nightmarish as the white faced ghoul, slithering around in search of kiddiewinks.

Fine support comes from Phill Jupitus, who brings a mischievous sense of fun to Vulgarian ruler Baron Bomburst, while Claire Sweeney shows she's still quite a mover in the Bombie Samba as the child-hating, lascivious Baroness Bomburst. We also get an early glimpse of the star pair as they double up roles as confectionary tycoon Lord Scrumptious and his officious personal assistant.

Lee Mead and Carrie Hope Fletcher with Aaron Gelkoff and Daisy Riddet

Adding to the giggles are the word-mangling, double-entendre dropping Vulgarian spies Goran and Boris (or Gordon and Doris in English disguise), played by Scott Paige and Sam Harrison.

Andy Hockley is perfect as old soldier Grandpa Potts, particularly in delightfully old fashioned song and dance numbers Posh and The Roses Of Success.

Highlights included the frenetic but well-drilled choreography of Me Ol' Bamboo and the cute but clever Doll On A Music Box song when Caractacus and Truly pose as toy dolls to trick the dastardly Bombursts.

Chitty is a lovely runner in mint condition and continues to go with a bang at the Hippodrome until Sunday.

Leon Burakowski

This Kinks show will really get you going

Sunny Afternoon
New Alexandra Theatre
Birmingham

IDEALLY, one would choose to watch the matinee of this production, have a couple of pre-show drinks, and literally laze on a Sunny Afternoon. But it matters not, it's compelling viewing.

A fictionalised account of true events, taken from a book by Joe Penhall, it recreates the story of the formative years of 60s legends The Kinks – from Ray and Dave Davies jamming in their bedrooms, their rise to the top with You Really Got Me, the feuds and their ban from the USA.

It moves on to the triumphant summer of '66, England win the World Cup and The Kinks top the charts again with the title track. It ends with their return to the States and hit single Lola.

It's a feel-good tale of the band's highs and lows, topped off with tunes that have stood the test of time.

Mark Newnham is more Dave than Ryan O'Donnell is Ray, looks-wise at least, and had a voice that lent itself to the more rocky tunes. But the latter was still believable as the frontman with Andrew Gallo and Garmon Rhys as band members Mick Avory and Peter Quaife. The accomplished quartet could have easily made up their own tribute act.

You'll be Tired of Waiting for a better musical to come along. It's back in the Midlands at Stoke's Regent Theatre from November 29.

Mark Shipp

Alexandra Burke as Deloris with Jon Robyns and Karen Mann in comedy musical Sister Act

Hallelujah! Soul sister Alexandra is fabulous

Sister Act, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

A-MAZ-ING... director and choreographer Craig Revel Horwood has breathed new life into this Broadway musical based on a 1992 Whoopi Goldberg comedy movie.

In Goldberg's lead role as sinning soul singer Deloris Van Cartier, forced to hide from gangsters in a convent, is Alexandra Burke. She certainly has the X Factor. We knew she could sing, dance and act (her stint in hit show The Bodyguard proved that) but she also shows a knack for comedy as the sassy diva horrified at having to swap her sexy figure-hugging outfits for 'a damn penguin suit'.

She meets her match in Karen Mann's feisty Mother Superior and starts to develop some good habits when she turns the caterwauling chorus of oddball nuns into a heavenly choir of strutting soul sisters.

There is strong support from Jon Robyns as Eddie, a cop with a crush on Deloris who shows that he is a wanna-be John Travolta in disco number I Could Be That Guy. That's an empowerment song matched by Sarah Goggin as postulant Sister Mary Robert with the powerful The Life I Never Led.

There is a lot of dark and saucy humour in Glenn Slater's lyrics, while Alan Menken's music pays homage to the 1970s. But Revel Horwood keeps it strictly naughty but nice with lots of broad humour in this feel-good show.

I wasn't sure about his idea of getting the actor-musicians to play instruments on stage but the assorted trumpets, guitars and saxes actually add to the liveliness and immediacy of the show.

For all the silliness, the show has a surprisingly poignant climax as the sisters rally around to protect Deloris from Aaron Lee Lambert's superfly gangster Curtis.

Alexandra Burke sings Fabulous, Baby. She is and so is the show, that's why the audience on Monday gave Sister Act a standing ovation. As the director would say, fab-u-lous darling!

Sister Act continues at the Alex until Saturday. It will also be visiting Wolverhampton and Stoke next year.

Leon Burakowski

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MISC. EVENTS

Digbeth Dining Clubs: The British Street Food Festival 2016 at The Rainbow Venues
Tomorrow,
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

The Multidimensional Show
Tomorrow,
All Saints Centre,
Wolverhampton,
WV2 1EL.
Call 0121 443 4579

Family fun at Sarehole Mill with live music, streetfood, food & craft market and beer
Sun,
Sarehole Mill, Birmingham,
B13 0BD.
Call 0121 348 8160

Psychic Evening with Debs
Thu,
Zen Birmingham,
B13 8HW.
Call 0121 449 4995
or 0121 643 3933

60+ Strength & Balance Class
Today,
Areley Kings Village Hall,
Areley Common,
Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Tech Wednesday
Wed,
Innovation Birmingham Campus,
Faraday Wharf, Birmingham,
B7 4BB.
Call 0121 260 6000

ARTS & CULTURE

Caroline Jariwala – Mosaics
Today - Thu,
Winterbourne House and Garden,
University of Birmingham,
B15 2TT.
Call 0121 414 3003

Distinctly Décopatch
Today,
Creative Coffee Hub,
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

Open Cockpits Evening
Tonight - tomorrow,
RAF Museum Cosford, Shifnal,
TF11 8UP.
Call 0208 205 2266
or 01902 376 200

Cold Calling: The Arctic Project
Today,
CBSO Centre, Birmingham,
B1 2LF.
Call 0121 616 6500

The Art Of Slowing Down
Today,
Creative Coffee Hub,
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

Introduction to pole lathe turning
Today,
Brockhampton Estate,
Grooms Brockhampton Mews,
Brockhampton Park, Bringsty,
WR6 5TB.
Call 01885 488099

Cronkhill open day
Today,
Attingham Park, Shrewsbury,
SY4 4TW.
Call 01743 708123

Jewellery Quarter Heritage Walk
Tomorrow, £5
Museum of the Jewellery Quarter,
Birmingham, B18 6HA.
Call 0121 554 3598

Bedfas at the Barber
The Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Free Lantern Making Workshop
Tomorrow. free
Oriel Davies Gallery, The Park,
Newtown,
SY16 2NZ.
Call 01686 625041

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Opera version of Mandela life story

FROM tribal initiation on the banks of the Mbashe River, through the heady jazz-fuelled days in Sophiatown, to incarceration on Robben Island and finally to freedom – the story of Nelson Mandela will be brought to Birmingham Hippodrome in the Mandela Trilogy.

The theatre will feature the story of one of the world's most iconic leaders on Tuesday and Wednesday when the amazing life of Mandela is brought to the stage by Cape Town Opera.

Told in three parts by a cast and orchestra of more than 60 South African performers, the music matches the different phases of Mandela's journey from law student to freedom fighter to first President of South Africa.

The upbeat swing-influenced songs of Sophiatown are framed by musical styles more familiar in contemporary opera, plus a dash of Xhosa folk music that grounds the production in its African roots.

The show was created by Michael Williams, the show's director, librettist and the managing director of Cape Town Opera.

He said: "It came about when we were contemplating 2010 with the World Cup coming to South Africa. The question was what piece of work should we create as an opera company to showcase the talents of our company and to speak to visitors about South Africa? It seemed pretty obvious it had to be about Mandela and how we prevented a civil war.

"I mean what a life, right? How do you tackle that? It's a whole life and you just have 70 minutes then an interval before another 60 minutes. In that short time, the challenge is to try to create a piece of art that is stimulating."

A scene from the Mandela Trilogy by Cape Town Opera, coming to Birmingham

The piece took Michael a year-and-a-half to write and it was subsequently revised following initial productions, adding an extra year to the creative process.

"The Trilogy now belongs to the cast and company, they've claimed it as their own," he added. "The greatest words that Mandela said were that the purpose of freedom is to give it to others. That's his legacy."

Ghost role for Sarah

GIRLS Aloud star Sarah Harding is due to play Molly Jensen in Ghost The Musical when the stage version of the romantic 1990 movie comes to Birmingham next week.

The Bill Kenwright produced musical will star Sarah in the Demi Moore role alongside Andy Moss, who plays Rhys Ashworth in Hollyoaks, in the Patrick Swayze role as her murdered lover Sam.

The Stockport-raised singer found fame via TV talent show Popstars: The Rivals in 2002, and her acting career has included appearances in the movie St Trinians 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold and Coronation Street. Earlier this year she had to pull out of TV winter sports show The Jump after rupturing a leg ligament.

In her first stage role, Sarah is starring in the touring version of the West End musical by Bruce Joel Rubin with original music and lyrics by Dave Stewart (ex-Eurythmics) and Glen Ballard. The film's most iconic scene, when potter Molly is joined at the wheel by her ghostly lover, was famously performed to the Righteous Brothers' classic Unchained Melody, which also features in the musical.

For over ten years Sarah Harding was part of one of the most successful pop acts in UK history, Girls Aloud, with 20 consecutive top ten singles, including four number ones,.

Sarah said: "I'm absolutely delighted to be making my theatre debut in Ghost The Musical. The film is one of my all-time favourites, so to get the opportunity to play Molly in Bill Kenwright's new production is a huge honour for me."

Joining her on stage is Andy Moss as Sam. He is best-known for starring as Rhys Ashworth in Channel 4's Hollyoaks. His other credits include Cutting It, Coronation Street and he most recently he appeared as Paul Cuthbert in Doctors.

Ghost The Musical is staged at the New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Cold calling at Rep for world premiere

A NEW work that focuses on the future of the Arctic will have its world premiere at Birmingham Repertory Theatre tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday.

The Rep and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra present Cold Calling: The Arctic Project. It has been composed by Nick Powell and written and directed by Anthony Neilson. It will fuse film, an original score and dialogue in the Rep's Studio auditorium. This production will be performed by a 20-piece chamber orchestra alongside actors Jan Pearson (Doctors) and Waleed Akhtar (Salmon Fishing in the Yemen) against the backdrop of Arctic landscapes.

The Wonder Stuff call in Fuzzbox

THE Wonder Stuff have announced final special guests for their Christmas shows, including a West Midlands homecoming concert on December 23 at Birmingham's O2 Institute.

The glittering line up will see Miles Hunt and co joined by Brummie girl group Fuzzbox, who exploded onto the scene in a cloud of lipstick and lace 30 years ago with hits International Rescue and Pink Sunshine. The gig in Brum already includes Bentley Rhythm Ace and compere Janice Long.

The Wonder Stuff this year celebrated their 30th anniversary with eighth studio album 30 Goes Around The Sun.

Voice of Rock has new solo album

CANNOCK-BORN rock singer Glenn Hughes, formerly of Trapeze, Deep Purple and Black Country Communion, releases his 12th solo album, Resonate, on November 4.

Four days after that California-based Glenn, nicknamed 'The Voice of Rock', starts his UK and European tour at The Assembly in Leamington Spa before his homecoming gig at Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall on November 9.

His special guests are Living Colour, the US funk metal band led by Vernon Reid. They had a 1988 US hit with Cult of Personality and 1990 UK hit with Love Rears Its Ugly Head.

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, September 15, 2016

CHOICE

Katie Derham

All Together Now: The Great Orchestra Challenge – The Final
(BBC2, 8pm)
Katie Derham presents as the two remaining amateur orchestras are sent off to boot camp, where professional musicians put them through their paces ahead of the grand final. Series judge Paul Daniel delivers one last masterclass, and mentor Chi-Chi Nwanoku offers more expert mentoring. With only two weeks remaining before the big play-off, the ensembles return to their home-towns, where the performers struggle to balance extra practice sessions with their work and family commitments. Finally, after months of fine-tuning and rehearsals, the rival groups do musical battle at the Royal Albert Hall.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v Argentina. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** BBC News. **5.25** Regional Programme. **5.30 Film:** Toy Story 3. (2010) Animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.
7.10 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present another star-studded edition of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz, this time inviting a selection of popular impressionists to compete. Seeking to emerge with the least points are The Big Impression double-act Alistair McGowan and Ronni Ancona, Dead Ringers co-stars Jon Culshaw and Jan Ravens, Rory Bremner and his Coalition Report collaborator Matt Forde, and Britain's Got Talent comedy stars Francine Lewis and Danny Posthill.
8.00 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Includes the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws, as Gaby Roslin catches up with Team GB's Paralympic athletes in Rio.
8.50 Casualty. Sparks fly between Ethan and Alicia as they try to rescue two fallen joggers from a dangerous cave, and Noel helps Louise secure much-needed funds for a new relatives' room.
9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys. Cathy goes to extreme lengths to impress her psychologist boyfriend, Rory and Dino locate the perfect apartment, and Mark prepares to emigrate to Australia. (R)
10.10 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Hull City v Arsenal at the KCOM Stadium; National Lottery Update.
11.50 NFL This Week. (R)
12.20 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.25 BBC News.

BBC2

7.35 Film: Rancho Notorious. (1952) **9.00** Border Country: The Story of Britain's Lost Middleland. (R) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.00** Lost Land of the Volcano. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **2.30** Flog It! (R) **3.30** The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg. (R) **4.30** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v Argentina. **5.30** Gardeners' World. (R)
6.30 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Jo Brand dissects batter week in the company of former Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer Ed Balls, chef Monica Galetti and comedian Henning Wehn. (R)
7.00 The Severn Bridge at 50: A High Wire Act. Celebrating the 50th birthday of the ground-breaking span linking England and Wales, focusing on the people which keep the Severn Bridge open all year round.
7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon try to capture three German airmen who have landed in a lake after bailing out and intend to stay in their dinghy until nightfall. (R)
8.00 All Together Now: The Great Orchestra Challenge – The Final. The two remaining amateur orchestras do musical battle at the Royal Albert Hall, with the winning ensemble getting a chance to perform at Proms in the Park. Last in the series.
9.00 Film: A Late Quartet. (2012) Premiere. The oldest member of a string quartet announces he is retiring due to ill health. His decision leads to hidden resentments among the others erupting, threatening to destroy years of friendship and artistry. Meanwhile, the teenage daughter of two of the musicians harbours secret desires for one of their colleagues. Drama, starring Christopher Walken.
10.40 QI XL. Extended edition. Jeremy Clarkson, Sandi Toksvig, Danny Baker and Alan Davies attempt to answer host Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions. (R)
11.25 Film: A Serious Man. (2009) The Coen brothers' 1960s-set black comedy, starring Michael Stuhlbarg and Richard Kind.
1.05 Film: The Quatermass Xperiment. (1955) **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50**Ooby. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20 Film:** Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case. (1977) **12.50** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** Tipping Point. (R) **2.00** The Chase. (R) **3.00** Pick Me! (R) **4.00** The X Factor. (R) **5.00** Ninja Warrior UK. (R)
6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R)
7.00 Go for It. Stephen Mulhern presents the talent-based game show in which members of the public are given a chance to demonstrate their unique -and highly unusual – skills in a challenge designed to wow the nation. Should the competitors successfully pull off their implausible stunts, they stand a chance of winning a £1,000 prize.
8.00 The X Factor. One last selection of hopeful pop icons face the judges in the room auditions, before the most successful stars take their place at the Boot Camp, taking place at Alexandra Palace.
9.00 Newzoids. The satirical puppet sketch show takes aim at Tom Hiddleston and Taylor Swift, Sarah Lancashire, Keith Lemon, Rylan Clark-Neal and Robert Peston.
9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. The veteran chat show host is joined by US comedy star Amy Schumer, Rogue One: A Star Wars Story actor Riz Ahmed, adventurer Bear Grylls, and singer-songwriter Olly Murs.
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 Film: Knocked Up. (2007) Romantic comedy, starring Seth Rogen and Paul Rudd.
1.05 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Gillette World Sport. **6.35** Andorra Ultra Trail. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Paralympics 2016 Live. Cycling, athletics and sailing on day 10 in Rio. **4.00** Paralympics 2016 Live. Wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby and athletics coverage. **5.30** Formula 1: Singapore Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.
7.00 Channel 4 News.
7.30 Paralympics 2016: Highlights with Clare Balding. Including the best of the action from last night's swimming and athletics finals, as well as a round-up of today's women's cycling road race in Pontal, with Sarah Storey going for gold for ParalympicsGB. Plus, a look at the sailing events at Marina da Gloria.
8.00 The Last Leg: Live from Rio. Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker present the "unofficial closing ceremony" of the Games, and are joined by some of Great Britain's Paralympic stars including Sarah Storey, Hannah Cockroft, Gordon Reid, Jordanne Whiley, Dan Greaves and Lee Pearson. Last in the series.
9.00 Paralympics 2016 Live. Clare Balding presents the final programme of coverage on the 10th and penultimate day of the Games in Rio, with Ellie Simmonds, Ollie Hynd, Steph Millward, Hannah Russell and Bethany Firth all hoping for success in the swimming at the Olympic Aquatics Stadium. Jonathan Edwards introduces the athletics coverage at the Olympic Stadium, with Paul Blake expected to be in contention in the 800m and David Weir going in the men's 4x100m relay. Plus, the men's T44 long jump final along with updates from the men's wheelchair basketball final at Carioca Arena 1 and the men's five-a-side football final at the Olympic Tennis Centre.
1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.50** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. James tries to make peace with John Paul. (R) **3.55** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.50** Food Unwrapped. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.25** The Fairly OddParents. **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **12.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **1.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits. (R) **3.00** Police Interceptors: The Fatal Four. (R) **4.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)
6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Stewart and Elmor visit Nottingham to chase almost £8,000 owed by a car dealership to a dissatisfied customer, while on the Isle of Wight, Brian and Del try to collect £3,700 of unpaid estate agency fees. The job begins peacefully, until one of the agents is physically assaulted by the debtor's wife. In Lancashire, Stewart and Iain struggle to identify the person who owes almost £2,000 after a failed compensation claim, while Del and Dael try to recover nearly £3,500 from a businessman in West London. (R)
7.00 5 News Weekend.
7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team investigates when a terrorist group in Iraq steals a truck with $5million and learns the money has been used to set up a bank robbery in Los Angeles. (R)
8.00 NCIS. Gibbs and the team set up a stake-out to catch a thief suspected of selling hi-tech Navy equipment on the black market. (R)
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Cardiff City v Leeds United, and Huddersfield Town v Queens Park Rangers.
10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two.
10.30 Impractical Jokers UK. David, Matt, Lee and Paul play a round of "Touch the Stranger", and the boys challenge each other to deliver ridiculous lectures to the unsuspecting members of a focus group.
11.00 The Cars That Made Britain Great. (R)
12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Queen of Tigers: Natural World Special **8.00** Clydebuilt: The Ships That Made the Commonwealth **9.00** Beck: Steinar **10.30** Kenny Rogers: Cards on the Table **11.30** Country Kings at the BBC **12.30** An Evening with Glen Campbell **1.50** Top of the Pops: 1982 **2.25** From Andy Pandy to Zebedee: The Golden Age of Children's TV **3.25** Close
ITV2
11.05 The X Factor **12.05** The Xtra Factor **1.05** Ninja Warrior UK **2.05** Totally You've Been Framed! Gold **2.50 Film:** Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55 Film:** Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **4.50 Film:** The Waterboy (1998) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55 Film:** The Waterboy (1998) **6.35 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **7.35** FYI Daily **7.40 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.20** The Cleveland Show **2.10** Mom **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.55 Film: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) **12.55** FYI Daily **1.00 Film:** Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) **1.55** Foyle's War **3.55** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.05** Lewis **1.10** You're Only Young Twice **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
1.20 Film: Shalako (1968) **2.25** FYI Daily **2.30 Film:** Shalako (1968) **3.35 Film:** The Horse Soldiers (1959) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** The Horse Soldiers (1959) **6.00** Fishing Impossible **7.00** Fierce **8.00 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **9.50 Film:** Exit Wounds (2001) **10.50** FYI Daily **10.55 Film:** Exit Wounds (2001) **11.55 Film:** Senna (2010) **12.55** FYI Daily **1.00 Film:** Senna (2010) **2.05** The Big Fish Off **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.00 New Girl **12.30** The Goldbergs **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.00 Film:** Independence Day (1996) **9.50** Gogglebox **11.55** Rude Tube **2.10** Gogglebox **3.00** Scream Queens **3.50** New Girl **4.35** Revenge
Film4
11.00 New in Town (2009) **1.00** Inkheart (2008) **3.05** The Golden Compass (2007) **5.15** Dear John (2010) **7.20** Airplane II: The Sequel (1982) **9.00** The World's End (2013) **11.10** The Warriors (1979) **1.00** The Crazies (2010) **3.05** Close

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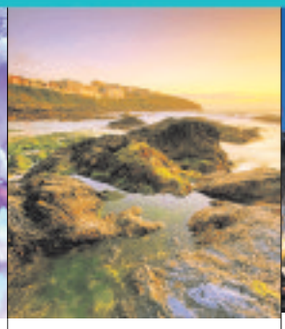

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CHOICE

Bear Grylls

Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls
(Channel 4, 9pm)
New series. Special version of the survival challenge show featuring a group of celebrity castaways, made as part of this year's Stand Up To Cancer campaign. The stars packed off to a deserted island with only basic resources include comedian Dom Joly, Made in Chelsea's Ollie Locke, pop star Aston Merrigold, former Labour councillor Karen Danczuk, Dr Dawn Harper from Embarrassing Bodies and TOWIE's Lydia Bright. Things get off to a bad start when a search party runs out of water, leaving the team facing three days without food.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** BBC News; Weather. **12.30** Points of View. **12.45** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v Argentina. **4.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)
6.35 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. The latest rural developments, including reports on issues affecting country communities and insights into the life of the modern farmer.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Hanbury Hall, Droitwich, where unusual objects brought in to be valued include a 10 foot-long narwhal tusk and an unusually large fishing rod that was used during the First World War. Plus, Hilary Kay reveals what smell can reveal about an object's past, and John Benjamin values four buttons that were bought for £2 – but may be worth considerably more.
9.00 Poldark. Unwin begins his political career with a vow to crack down on crime – particularly smuggling. Ross needs to pay his debts soon, so makes plans to expand his business and seeks funding for a new tunneling scheme. Francis offers to invest in the scheme, but Ross is suspicious when he discovers the money came from George. Jud is attacked for recanting his testimony at the trial, and Demelza conceals her pregnancy, convinced her husband does not want a child – but his flirtatious nature with Elizabeth spurs her to a furious revelation.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, including Watford v Manchester United at Vicarage Road and Tottenham Hotspur v Sunderland at White Hart Lane.
11.50 Film: Tropic Thunder. (2008) Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black and Robert Downey Jr.
1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.00** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** The Beechgrove Garden. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Food & Drink. (R) **2.30** Triathlon World Series: Mexico. **4.30** Heir Hunters. (R) **5.15** Flog It! (R)
6.00 Natural World – Jaguars: Brazil's Super Cats. Documentary following a pioneering team in Brazil as they track individual wild jaguars in order to gain new insights into their lives. (R)
7.00 New York: America's Busiest City. Ade Adepitan, Anita Rani, Ant Anstead and Dan Snow take a closer look at one of the most powerful cities in the world. (R)
8.00 Scotland and the Battle for Britain. Andrew Marr examines the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum, examining how it changed the political landscape and predicting the challenges that the SNP will face in the future.
9.00 Elton John Live at Hyde Park. The singer performs a concert to a crowd of 50,000 fans for Radio 2's Festival in a Day event, featuring old favourites and songs from his recent album Wonderful Crazy Night.
10.00 Fleabag. Claire and Fleabag return to their father's home for an annual gathering to mark the anniversary of their mother's death – but this time there is an unwanted guest.
10.25 Murder in Successville. Sleet and sidekick Emma Bunton go to North Successville, where the detective investigates the murder of a fellow cop and takes a liking to the area's chief of police.
10.55 Absolutely Fashion: Inside British Vogue. Two-part documentary going behind the scenes of the fashion magazine as editor-in-chief Alexandra Shulman and her staff prepare to celebrate its centenary. (R)
11.55 Film: A Royal Affair. (2012) Premiere. The queen of Denmark and her lover try to influence the king to change the political structure of the nation. Historical drama, with Mads Mikkelsen.
2.05 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.00** This Is BBC Two. **5.45** Rip Off Britain. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Chopping Block. (R) **12.00** ITV News; Weather. **12.10** Judge Rinder. (R) **1.15** Catchphrase. (R) **1.55** Tipping Point. (R) **3.00** Victoria. (R) **4.00** The X Factor. (R) **5.00** Doc Martin. (R)
6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.10 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 The Chase Celebrity Special. Toyah Willcox, John Barnes, Germaine Greer and Audley Harrison work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.
7.30 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the second day of the Boot Camp stage. Judges Simon Cowell, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh set the contestants a series of tests to demonstrate their ability to sing and dance, with the outcome deciding who gets to go through to the Six Chair Challenge.
9.00 Victoria. Melbourne warns Victoria that Parliament will not be happy about her marrying a German prince, a prediction that proves all too accurate when the Privy Council refuse to grant Albert a royal title. The prince fears for his future in England, while Victoria succumbs to paranoia, becoming convinced that he only intends to marry her for the financial independence he will gain.
10.05 ITV News; Weather.
10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present highlights of the latest fixtures.
12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights.

CHANNEL 4

7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Big Bang Theory. **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **1.00** Paralympics 2016 Live. Wheelchair rugby and athletics on day 11 in Rio. **4.00** Paralympics 2016 Live. Sophie Morgan and JJ Chalmers introduce further coverage on the 11th and final day of competition in Rio. Featuring the wheelchair rugby final at Carioca Arena 1, and further marathon action as the races reach their conclusions along Copacabana beach. Multiple Paralympic champion Tatyana McFadden of the USA will be hoping to pick up her first marathon gold medal in the women's T54 event, having finished a disappointing ninth in London four years ago.
6.15 Channel 4 News.
6.30 Formula 1: Singapore Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the 15th round of the season at the Marina Bay Street Circuit. Sebastian Vettel dominated the race weekend last year, winning for Ferrari from pole position with the Red Bull of Daniel Ricciardo and Vettel's team-mate Kimi Raikkonen filling the podium spaces. The Grand Prix was an uncharacteristically poor one for Mercedes, with Lewis Hamilton retiring and Nico Rosberg only able to finish in fourth position.
9.00 Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls. New series. Special version of the survival challenge show in which 10 celebrities, including Dom Joly and Ollie Locke, are marooned on a deserted island with only basic resources.
10.00 Paralympics 2016: Closing Ceremony Live. Clare Balding, Adam Hills and Jonathan Edwards present coverage of the closing ceremony from the Maracana in Rio, featuring thousands of athletes filling the stadium as the flame is extinguished and the Games are officially declared closed. Plus, a look back at some of the highlights of this year's spectacle and a look ahead to the 2020 event in Tokyo, Japan.
2.15 Obsessive Compulsive Country House Cleaners. People who go to great lengths to keep their homes in an immaculate condition spruce up country estates that have been allowed to fall into disrepair. (R) **3.10** Location, Location, Location. Revisiting house-hunters in Kent and Edinburgh. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.20** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. **12.25** Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World. (R) **1.25** Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World. (R) **2.25** Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World. (R) **3.25** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **4.20** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **5.20** Benefits Special: 18 Kids and Claiming. (R)
6.15 Benefits: Breadline Britain. People who rely on benefits for a place to live, including a couple who have a four-bedroom house and describe themselves as on the work scrapheap because of their health issues. (R)
7.05 Benefits: Through a Child's Eyes. Children living in families dependent on employment benefits reveal their hopes and fears for the future, including 11-year-old Jessica, who lives with her mother and three sisters and is afraid of the financial strain being placed on the family. Jack, aged 12, lives in a damp home despite suffering from asthma, and dreams of having a holiday, but his main concern is whether his mother will be able to cope with having a new baby. Fifteen-year-old Blue and her three sisters are bullied at school for wearing worn-out clothes, and she talks candidly about her increasing weight, a result of comfort eating caused by the bullying. (R)
8.00 Can't Pay? Breadline Britain. Paul and Ben face a challenging eviction in London, where a vulnerable tenant in rent arrears has barricaded her front door, while Brian and Del chase a debt of nearly £2,000. (R)
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 When TV Goes Wrong. Moments from television history when programmes went wrong.
12.00 The Best of Bad TV. (R) **1.45** SuperCasino. **4.00** World's Most Pampered Pets. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Last Night of the Proms from Around the UK **8.30** Britain on Film: War and Peace **9.00** World War Two: 1942 and Hitler's Soft Underbelly **10.30** The Magic of Mushrooms **11.30** The Fantastical World of Hormones with Dr John Wass **12.30** Voyager: To the Final Frontier **1.30** Rock 'n' Roll Britannia **2.30** Duets at the BBC **3.30** Close
ITV2
12.00 The X Factor **1.00** The Xtra Factor **2.00** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! Gold **2.45 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **4.30 Film:** St Trinian's (2007) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55 Film:** St Trinian's (2007) **6.30 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **7.30** FYI Daily **7.35 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad! **12.50** Dating in the Dark **1.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.10** Nicole Scherzinger: The Hot Desk **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.45 Jane Eyre **3.00 Film:** Columbo: Butterfly in Shades of Grey (1993) **5.05 Film:** Carry On Cowboy (1966) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10 Film:** Carry On Cowboy (1966) **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.05 Film:** Good Will Hunting (1997) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10 Film:** Good Will Hunting (1997) **12.40** Wire in the Blood **2.35** Wycliffe **4.00** May the Best House Win **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. **6.30** BRDC Formula 3 Championship Highlights **7.30** Pawn Stars **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Life Inside Jail: Hell on Earth **10.00 Film:** From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15 Film:** From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **12.15 Film:** The Boat That Rocked (2009) **1.20** FYI Daily **1.25 Film:** The Boat That Rocked (2009) **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
3.05 The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Fast & Furious 5 (2011) **11.35** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **12.40** Body Fixers **1.40** Gogglebox **2.40** Containment **3.25** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 I Wanna Hold Your Hand (1978) **1.00** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **2.45** The Phantom (1996) **4.40** Step Up 4: Miami Heat (2012) **6.35** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **9.00** Before I Go to Sleep (2014) **10.50** Heat (1995)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
A Sunday Horse, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A determined horse rider strives to become a success in the sport, despite limited resources for training. Her career is seemingly ended by a near fatal accident, but she resolves to recover from her injuries and make a comeback. Fact-based drama, starring Nikki Reed, Linda Hamilton and William Shatner. (2015)

TUESDAY
Good Witch, Bad Witch, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Cassandra Nightingale receives a visit from her conniving niece, who turns her friends against her. Drama sequel, starring Catherine Bell, Sarah Power and Matthew Knight. (2011)

WEDNESDAY
Before the Devil Knows You're Dead, Channel 4, 1.05am
Two brothers are both in need of money. The elder suggests robbing their parents' jewellery store, as they know heir way around the security, and insurance will cover what they steal – but their seemingly perfect crime ends in tragedy. Crime drama, starring Philip Seymour Hoffman and Ethan Hawke. (2007)

Girl with a Pearl Earring, Friday, BBC1, 11.40pm

THURSDAY
Final Recourse, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A wealthy businesswoman spirals into substance abuse, and, in the haze of a drunken stupor, she is kidnapped. Held in a makeshift prison by her captors, she goes through the agony of drug and alcohol withdrawal, before managing to escape and return home. It's only then, however, that she realises someone close to home may have been behind her abduction. Thriller, starring Teri Polo. (2013)

FRIDAY
Girl with a Pearl Earring, BBC1, 11.40pm
A girl takes up the job of maid in the household of the artist Vermeer – but her presence provokes friction in the family and the jealousy of his wife when the servant catches the painter's eye. Peter Webber's 17th-century period drama adapted from the best-selling novel by Tracy Chevalier, starring Scarlett Johansson, Colin Firth and Tom Wilkinson. (2003)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Accusation turns comic's life into a nighmare

The term 'national treasure' is bandied around a lot these days – it seems to be applied to anyone who has been on TV at any point in the past 50 years – but Robbie Coltrane is arguably more deserving of the status than most.

The Bafta-winning actor has appeared in everything from Cracker to the Harry Potter movies, and now he's back in this highly anticipated, and very topical four-part drama Nation Treasure, playing the (fictional) much-loved comedian Paul Finchley.

Robbie explains: "He's been part of a double act that's been going for 30-odd years who, in their younger days, were incredibly successful. They had their own TV show and did sketches. And they are both kind of viewed as national treasures – they're kind of like Morecambe and Wise or any of those other double acts that people love."

However, Paul could be about to experience a very public fall from grace when he is accused of a historical sexual offence that dates back to the 1990s. He denies ever having met the woman making the allegation, but his wife Marie (another national treasure contender, Julie Walters) has to decide whether to stand by him, and his troubled daughter Dee (Andrea Riseborough) starts to question her relationship with him.

Coltrane adds: "The first episode, I think, is very interesting, because there's no hint in it at all of whether he did it or not. And also, whether he did it or not is not what it's about. It's about 'What would it be like if it happened to you, or anybody else.'"

And Paul's situation becomes more difficult when the media gets involved, which leads to one of the dilemmas at the heart of the series (and the real-life cases which have helped to inspire it) – does naming suspects lead to trial in the court of public opinion, or is it a way of encouraging victims to come forward?

As Robbie says, there are no easy answers: "In the programme, my character does this interview with Victoria Derbyshire… Finchley's argument is 'Why does this have to be done in public?' And she says 'Well, what do you think? Should the law be protecting the wrongfully accused, or those who have actually been abused? Because that's your choice.' And it is the choice. It's a real moral dilemma."

In fact, the subject matter is so controversial, it seems some people were surprised the actor signed up for it all. He says: "I got this script and I thought 'Oh yes!' A lot of people said 'Don't touch it, Rob, it's poisonous, it's not going to do you any good.' It's pretend!"

But just because the case is fictional, it doesn't mean that National Treasure doesn't have a lot to say. Robbie says: "I believe with all my soul that it's the job of drama to deal with things that the judiciary's not very good at, the police aren't very good at, the politicians aren't very good at, the civil service aren't very good at…

"A lot of people said that about Cracker. 'Why would you want to make an entertaining show about people getting murdered?' It's not about entertainment, it's about finding out how people get like that. That's what the whole show is about."

Robbie Coltrane stars in National Treasure, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Cold Feet
ITV, 9pm
David and Robyn are woken in the early hours by the police and David immediately assumes the worst, thinking something has happened to one of the children. A visit to the doctor confirms Adam's suspicions about Pete, and an adrenaline-fuelled bike ride fails to take Pete's mind off the situation. A visit to see care patient Harry (James Bolam) adds to Pete's woes when Harry makes a morose request.

TUESDAY
DIY SOS: The Big Build
BBC1, 9pm
The Rio Paralympics may have only just come to a close, but the DIY SOS team is looking to Tokyo 2020 as they come to the aid of disabled teenage athlete Scott Jones in Cheltenham. The 17-year-old already knows what it's like to be a world champion – he picked up a gold at the 2013 IPC world championships. Nick Knowles and the team aim to help Scott achieve another ambition and become more self-sufficient at home, something the current layout of the house makes challenging. Will a side and rear extension, complete with a bedroom, wet room, access to an adapted kitchen and a state-of-the-art gym help Scott on the road to independence (and Tokyo)?

WEDNESDAY
Grand Designs
Channel 4, 9pm
Kevin McCloud is back for a new series, and he begins by meeting a couple who have taken on a project that's hugely ambitious, even by Grand Designs standards. Plumber Jon Martin and ceramicist Noreen Jaafar have acquired an overgrown, neglected half acre of land in the heart of a Gloucestershire town. The fact that its home to 27 protected trees would put off many developers, but for the couple it was all part of the attraction as they intend to build a modern tree house. The property will be set up in the branches, with stilts screwed into the earth and balconies that provide spectacular views.

THURSDAY
George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. The architect is back with the show that celebrates ingenious and eccentric small builds in all their forms. He meets a pair of newlyweds who instead of a honeymoon spent their money on an old army truck, which they plan to transform into a mobile holiday home, and a master craftsman in Devon making an eco-friendly luxury treehouse – complete with sauna, spiral staircase and even a slide. In New Zealand, George visits a hilltop beach house overlooking the Pacific, and as ever he and old friend Will Hardie embark on another series-long project – this time to build a gravity-defying, rotating home inspired by vintage sci-fi comics.

Strictly Come Dancing, Friday, BBC1, 9pm

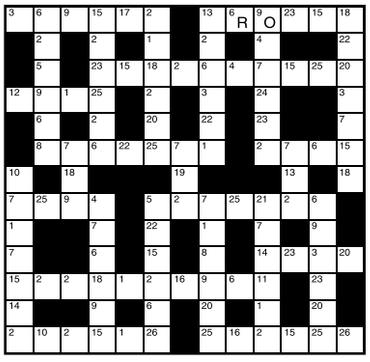
Hunted
Channel 4, 9pm
Last Autumn, 14 civilians (described as fugitives) took part in Hunted, a series in which they attempted to steer clear of former police intelligence officers for 28 days – four of them made it through the series without being caught. It was an unusual format, but one that kept viewers hooked as they witnessed the real-life tensions and terrors of being on the run – so it should come as no surprise to find that the show is back for a new run. This time only 10 people will be taking part, but the stakes are high – those who remain at large after four gruelling weeks will win £100,000, but they will certainly have earned the money. They'll be going up against an elite team of 30 hunters led by former Scotland Yard detective Peter Bleksley. Among those taking part are a househusband, countryside lovers from Yorkshire and a pair of amputee military veterans.

FRIDAY
Joanna Lumley's Japan
ITV, 9pm
So far, the Ab Fab star's journey around Japan has seen her taking in a mix of old and new, and the final instalment is no exception. Joanna begins by traveling to the island of Shikoku, where she hopes to gain a better understanding of Japanese Buddhism, before heading to the fourth of the country's main islands, Kyushu, for a stay in the world's first robot hotel. From there, she travels south to Nagasaki, the site of the second atomic bomb to be dropped on Japan in 1945. She visits Shiroyama Elementary school, which was close to the bomb's hyper centre, and hears how former student Matsuyoshi Ikeda miraculously survived the blast.

BRAIN GYM No.395

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6 R	19
7	20
8	21
9 O	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
H	A	W	L	K	E	T	M	Q	C	F	S	G
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	P	J	R	X	D	Z	O	U	Y	V	N	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

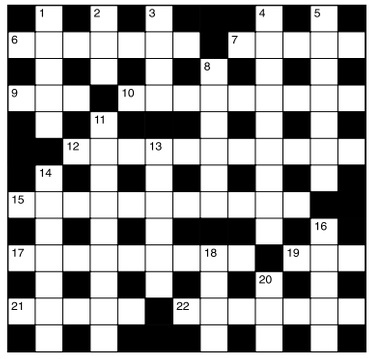
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Ranchers intimidate the youngsters (7)
7. It's an atrocious mark (5)
9. The very end of the dump (3)
10. Where connections are established - for stockmen? (9)
12. Footman (11)
15. Where the yachting enthusiast may be found in tent! (5,6)
17. The shout of one on becoming engaged! (6-3)
19, 20Dn & 1Dn. Dan noticing mixed drink (3,3,5)
21. Turkish governor elected once more (5)
22. He reckons it's a piece of shop equipment (7)

Down

1. See 19 Across
2 & 16Dn. They result in current falls (3-5)
3. A sharp-eyed one to make connections, we hear (4)
4. So affected that notes fade dreadfully (5-4)
5. In disorganised side the main complaint (7)
8. He composed in Munich - Op.1, naturally! (6)
11. I fetch in a different leader (9)
13. The noise of a bat (6)
14. Blow up the picture and cause general confusion (7)
16. See 2 Down
18. A revolting occurrence (4)
20. See 19 Across



Quick Clues:

Across

6. Chorus (7)
7. Journal (5)
9. Strike (3)
10. Homage (9)
12. Seemingly absurd (11)
15. Make a start (5,3,3)
17. Insulted (9)
19. Beam (3)
21. Send (5)
22. Make (7)

Down

1. Start (5)
2. Arrid (3)
3. Magnitude (4)
4. Chronometer (9)
5. Decisive (7)
8. Take away (6)
11. Clumsy (9)
13. Be there (6)
14. Tender (7)
16. Imagine (5)
18. Merit (4)
20. Lyric poem (3)

Sudoku

8	4				5			6
2	6			9			8	
				8	6	5		
3					9		7	
		8		1		9		
	5		7		3			2
		4	1			3		
5	1			3			2	8
			5				1	7

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	5	9	2	6	3	4	1	7
4	7	3	1	9	5	6	8	2
1	2	6	4	8	7	9	3	5
5	9	2	8	4	1	7	6	3
7	4	1	6	3	2	5	9	8
3	6	8	5	7	9	1	2	4
2	3	7	9	1	4	8	5	6
9	8	5	7	2	6	3	4	1
6	1	4	3	5	8	2	7	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Trial and error; 8 Manifest; 9 Even; 10 Etcher; 12 Easily; 14 Meting; 16 Stream; 18 News; 20 Sidereal; 22 Pitched battle. Down: 1 Break the; 2 Lavish; 3 Take; 4 Editress; 5 Orders; 6 Bole; 11 Register; 13 Loanable; 15 Insect; 17 Rarity; 19 Emit; 21 Debt. QUICK - Across: 7 Come to nothing; 8 Pick-me-up; 9 Idea; 10 Cherub; 12 Seldom; 14 Tragic; 16 Deride; 18 Mail; 20 Becoming; 22 Fair and square. Down: 1 Polisher; 2 Pecker; 3 Sore; 4 Composed; 5 Shrill; 6 Once; 11 Backbone; 13 Ordinary; 15 Galore; 17 Rumour; 19 Away; 21 Cost.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What was the name of MGM's lion?
2. Who resigned as Protector a year after succeeding Oliver Cromwell?
3. Which fruit is obtained from the tree Ficus carica?
4. With which art form is Frederick Ashton associated?
5. Where are the Sussex Stakes run?
6. With whom did Karl Marx collaborate on The Communist Manifesto?
7. In which year was the Jarrow Crusade?
8. Of what is pinchbeck an imitation?
9. In which country was Salman Rushdie born?
10. What was poet Gerard Manley Hopkins's other calling?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Denmark; 2 Universal; 3 Pierre-Auguste Renoir; 4 Knapweed; 5 Silver; 6 Parrots; 7 Tea; 8 Gerry Adams; 9 Soar; 10 Belgium and the Netherlands.

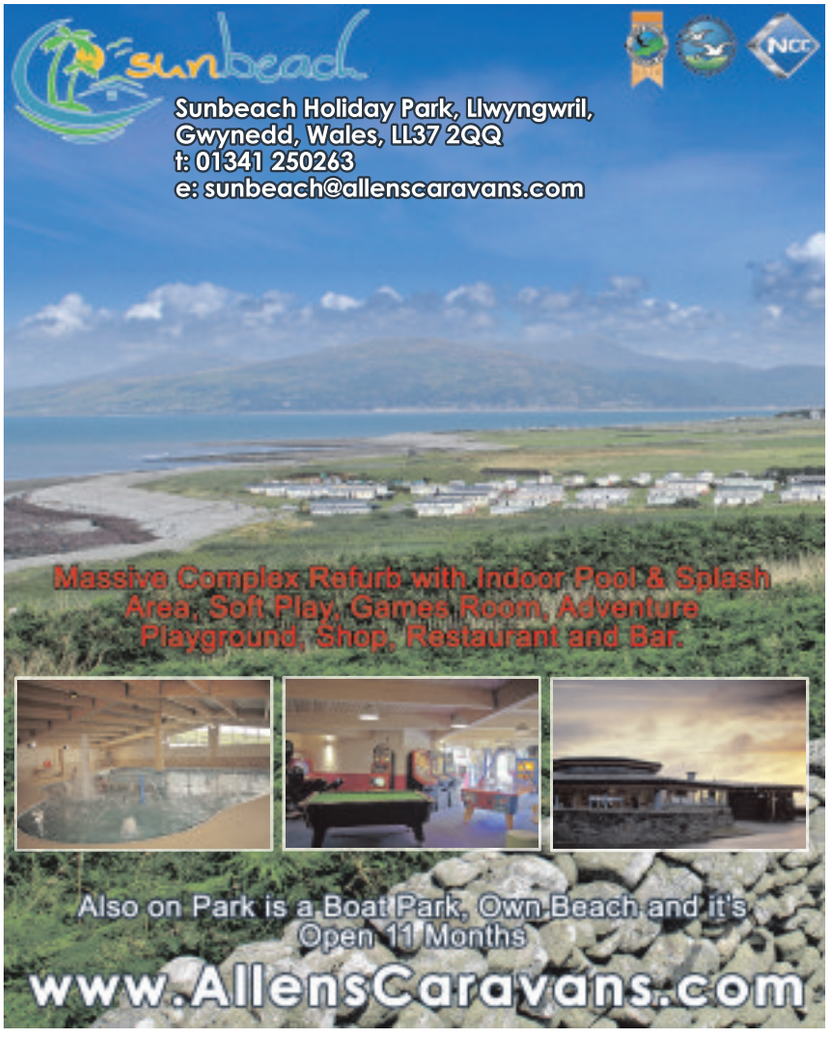
Niner: IMPORTUNE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

422 gives a girl's name,
84154 gives a second girl's name,
73669 gives a third girl's name.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, September 15, 2016

Absolutely delicious dish – smoked chicken

A taste of the Orient – the China Diner

Small and simple – inside is understated and laidback

Honey chilli crispy beef in a noodle bowl

Proper fine China at Diner that spares all the airs and graces

By Andy Richardson

YOU'RE always eating posh stuff from posh places," says Angry from Wellington.

"Why don't you go to proper places, the ones that we can all go to, and review those?"

I'm not quite sure what a proper place is. But I'm guessing Angry From Wellington is referring to neighbourhood restaurants that serve food that doesn't require a Masters Degree from the University of Gastronomy to understand.

I'm pretty sure he's referring to the sort of place that you don't have to book months in advance or hire a suit to go to. And the China Diner is all of those things.

Chow Mein? Tick. Egg fried rice? Tick. Sizzling chicken in fresh chilli, garlic and black bean sauce with onions and mushrooms? Oh go on then, if you're asking.

China Diner is the epitome of a 'proper restaurant'. It's not posh. And that's one of the things that's great about it. There are no airs and graces, no pretence and the smiles are as wide as the moon.

The bubbly lady who served my midweek supper was a star. Polite, warm and engaging she made regular visits to the table to make sure the food and drinks were fine – and when there was food left over at the end of the evening she bagged it up in takeaway containers and told me to enjoy it the night after. I did. That's what I call 'proper'.

China Diner is in Bridgnorth's Low Town. It's in an unprepossessing building with a waiting area for takeaway customers on the ground floor, alongside a bar.

The restaurant is upstairs and it's bijou. With tables packed closely together, there's nothing fancy or plush about it. It's not quite spit and sawdust, but it's as far removed from fine dining as a jam sandwich is from haute cuisine.

And that's one of the reasons it's so good. China Diner is about two things: well-cooked food and delightful service. I loved it the first time I visited and it's just as good two years on.

Thrilling

Dinner was delicious. The last time I ate at China Diner, every table was taken. This time, none were. I had the place to myself for most of the evening, though the takeaway downstairs was busy all night.

I started with a smoked chicken number. Small pieces of lightly smoked breast were served in a crisp batter alongside chilli, garlic, onion and spring onions. It was delicious. The chicken might have been smoked a little longer, to impart a stronger flavour, though the batter was as good as anything Rick Stein might come up with. Mains were thrilling.

A Kung Po chicken was the star of the show. Tender pieces of chicken fillet were encased in a smooth and delicious spicy/sweet sauce with pieces of fresh chilli, a sprinkling of cashew nuts, sweet onions, garlic and crunchy water chestnuts.

Shredded crispy beef in honey chilli sauce was utterly beguiling and a spicy Mandarin chicken also made its way to the table, offering a rich, fruity complement to its table-fellows.

There wasn't room for dessert, which was a pity because China Diner offers more than the bog-standard bought-in-frozen-offerings so beloved by competitors. No matter. There'll be a next time. I'm sure Angry from Wellington would love this place.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Spacious detached family home set in a great position

A prestigious, superbly presented, spacious detached family home situated in a great position at the head of a cul-de-sac, 7 Buckingham Grove, Kingswinford is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £360,000.

Its accommodation includes a spacious lounge, a dining room leading to the lovely conservatory, a fitted solid wood kitchen with appliances, a utility room, a large downstairs bedroom with fitted furniture, a vanity unit and shower, downstairs guest cloakroom/WC, three further double bedrooms to the first floor with the master having an en-suite shower and house bathroom.

The property has lovely landscaped gardens, a sweeping driveway and many luxury features.

In more detail the large reception hall is welcoming, light and airy with stairs off to the first floor and guest cloakroom off.

The spacious lounge has a feature fireplace with full height picture windows to the front elevation, a feature fireplace with fitted living flame gas fire and two warm air central heating vents.

The kitchen has solid maple units with worktops over, matching wall units with under cupboard lighting and pelmet lighting, a fitted double oven, microwave and hob with stainless steel canopy over, an integrated dish washer, integrated fridge, ceramic tiling, tiled flooring, a breakfast bar and a door to a utility room with a fridge freezer, full height larder unit, plumbing for an automatic washing machine, further appliance space, tiled flooring and a walk-in storage.

The dining room is of a good size and has French doors opening out to the superb conservatory with tiled flooring.

The large ground floor bedroom four has a range of solid wood fitted furniture.

Outside the home has a carport to the front and also a landscaped front garden. This includes a copper beech, a long sweeping driveway with parking for several vehicles and gated access to the side of the property leading to the screened shed area and rear garden. The rear garden is also superbly landscaped.

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Mazda3 sharper, smarter, brighter

With global production having passed five million cars at the end of April 2016, the highly acclaimed Mazda3 has been updated with the launch of the 2017 Mazda3.

Highlights across the full hatchback and fastback range include, subtle exterior changes and an updated cabin. Plus, with the introduction of G-Vectoring Control, the debut of Mazda's SKYACTIV-VEHICLE DYNAMICS technology.

Thanks to its KODO: Soul of Motion design and SKYACTIV technology, the current generation of Mazda's global sales leader set new standards when it went on sale in the UK in 2014. Its bold styling, premium quality and advanced technology saw it win praise for its sharp handling, upmarket cabin, alluring looks and efficient engines.

Maintaining an award-winning range of SKYACTIV petrol and diesel engines, the 2017 Mazda3's broad spread of enhancements are designed to keep it at the forefront of this competitive class. Externally, the 2017 Mazda3 is marked out by a revised grille with a stronger three-dimensional look and a new front fog light bezel.

Across both body styles, revised door mirrors feature wraparound turn indicators, while hatchback versions have a redesigned rear bumper.

The 2017 Mazda3 is available in eight colours including Mazda's new Machine Grey Mica, which having starred on the all-new Mazda MX-5 RF at the 2016 New York Motor Show, makes its production debut on the Mazda3. The second all-new colour to make its debut is Eternal Blue Mica, while Sonic Silver Metallic is offered for the first time on the Mazda3. SE and SE-L Nav trim cars feature 16-inch alloy wheels, while Sport Nav models benefit from a new design of high-sheen finish 18-inch alloy wheels.

Updates

Inside, the 2017 Mazda3's cabin evolves the driver-oriented interior space with a host of updates that include higher-quality switch panels and handle bezels on the doors, plus a newly designed trim insert on the dashboard.

The adoption of an electric parking brake creates space for a more practical centre console, while another highlight is a new leather steering wheel design that enhances feel and style, and if combined with leather seats is heated.

On sale from October 1, the 2017 Mazda3 is offered with a choice of 105ps 1.5-litre or 150ps 2.2-litre SKYACTIV-D diesel engines, alongside a petrol line-up that includes 120ps and 165ps versions of the 2.0-litre SKYACTIV-G.

Having added the smooth, frugal and sub 100g/km 1.5-litre SKYACTIV-D diesel engine to the Mazda3 last year, both this and the well-established 2.2-litre SKYACTIV-D engine now feature Transient Control, which ensures a more positive throttle response by reducing turbo lag and boosting torque to deliver a petrol-like engine feel.

Refinement has also been enhanced thanks to the introduction of Mazda's Natural Sound Smoother (NSS) technology, which reduces knock noise during starting and low-speed acceleration on diesel engines.

Across the whole range, overall refinement has been substantially improved with added noise suppression material in the roof, doors, dashboard and transmission tunnel area. In addition, revisions to the front and rear suspension have focused on delivering improved ride comfort and reducing vibration, while at the same time enhancing pin-sharp handling

The 2017 Mazda3 also features G-Vectoring Control (GVC), the first of Mazda's SKYACTIV-VEHICLE DYNAMICS technologies. It varies engine torque to optimize wheel load to indiscernibly provide more precise handling and improved comfort.

Other technology highlights include the adaption of a full-colour display on the enhanced head–up display system, while for the first time the Mazda3 is offered with Adaptive LED headlights.

On sale in the UK from October 1, the 2017 Mazda3 is priced from £17,595 to £24,195.

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09 59	**RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 1.2** 5DR BLACK 29,500 MILES		£3,995	
12 62	**VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2S** 5DR BLAZE RED 17,000 MILES		£4,295	
12 12	**SUZUKI ALTO 1.0 SZ4** 5DR GREY WITH BLACK ALLOYS 16,700 MILES	£4,495	£4,195	£300
11 11	**PEUGEOT 207 ENVY 1.4** 3DR METALLIC RED 30,700 MILES		£4,495	
11 11	**VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.3CDTi** 5DR RED 69,700 MILES	£4,995	£4,495	£500
10 10	**FORD FIESTA EDGE 1.25** 3DR METALLIC BLUE 37,700 MILES		£5,295	
11 61	**VAUXHALL CORSA SE 1.4 AUTOMATIC** 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 68,300 MILES 1 OWNER	£5,495	£4,995	£500
13 63	**VAUXHALL AGILA SE 1.2 AUTOMATIC** 5DR BLAZE RED 47,800 MILES		£5,495	
13 62	**FORD KA ZETEC 1.2** 3DR RED 24,500 MILES		£5,695	
13 13	**SUZUKI SWIFT SZ2 1.2** 5DR RED 10,750 MILES	£5,995	£5,695	£300
11 61	**VAUXHALL CORSA SE 1.4** 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 32,500 MILES		£5,995	
12 12	**VAUXHALL CORSA SE 1.4** 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 35,700 MILES		£6,195	
11 61	**VAUXHALL CORSA SE 1.4 AUTOMATIC** 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 26,500 MILES		£6,295	
13 13	**VAUXHALL CORSA ENERGY 1.2** 3DR CRINIAN BLUE 17,900 MILES		£6,295	
14 63	**FIAT PUNTO 1.4GBT** 3DR WHITE 17,400 MILES WITH BLUETOOTH		£6,295	
13 63	**HYUNDAI I20 ACTIVE** 5DR RED 28,600 MILES	£6,295	£5,895	£400
13 63	**VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 1.4** 5DR ASTEROID GREY 27,300 MILES		£6,495	
15 64	**RENAULT TWINGO PLAY 1.0SCE** 5DR BLUE 3,900 MILES		£6,495	
14 64	**VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.0** 3DR FLAME RED 11,400 MILES		£6,695	
13 63	**PEUGEOT 208 ACTIVE 1.2** 5DR SILVER 17,000 MILES		£6,995	
12 62	**VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 1.2** 5DR WHITE 28,000 MILES		£6,995	
1414	**VAUXHALL CORSA LIMITED 1.2** 3DR OLYMPIC WHITE 22,400 MILES		£6,995	
1564	**VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 1.2** 3DR SILVER ONLY 1,700 MILES		£7,295	
1463	**FIAT 500 LOUNGE** WHITE / WHITE INTERIOR 3DR 6,500 MILES		£7,295	
14 64	**VAUXHALL CORSA LIMITED 1.2** 3DR FLAMING YELLOW 20,100 MILES	£7,495	£7,195	£300
15 15	**VAUXHALL NEW CORSA STING 1.2** 3DR FLAME RED WITH WHITE STRIPES 6,650 MILES		£7,495	
13 63	**CITROEN DS3 DSTYLE 1.6VTI** 3DR POLAR WHITE 41,000 MILES		£7,995	
14 63	**FIAT 500 ABARTH 1.4 T-JET** WHITE 41,000 MILES	£8,995	£8,695	£300
15 65	**VAUXHALL ADAM GLAM 1.2** 3DR THE GREYFATHER 5,750 MILES	£9,295	£8,795	£500
15 65	**VAUXHALL ADAM GLAM 1.2** 3DR SATURDAY WHITEFEVER 4,900 MILES *PANORAMIC ROOF*		£9,495	
14 64	**VAUXHALL ADAM JAM 1.0T 115ps** 3DR RED WITH WHITE ROOF 6850 MILES 1 OFF CAR EX DEMO	£9,695	£9,295	£400
13 13	**CITROEN DS3 DSPORT PLUS 1.6E-HDI AIRDREAM** 3DR RED 27,300 MILES *LEATHER*		£9,995	
16 16	**VAUXHALL ADAM GLAM 1.4** 3DR SATURDAY WHITEFEVER 5,600 MILES *PANORAMIC ROOF*	£10,495	£10,195	£300
16 16	**VAUXHALL ADAM SLAM 1.2** RED N ROLL WITH BLACK ROOF 6,200 MILES	£10,495	£10,195	£300
15 15	**FORD FIESTA ZETEC S 1.6TDCI** 3DR METALLIC BLUE 13,900 MILES *SAT-NAV*		£10,695	
16 16	**VAUXHALL ADAM SLAM 1.4 LET IT** BLUE WITH BLACK ROOF 4,100 MILES	£10,995	£10,495	£500
15 15	**VAUXHALL ADAM S 1.4T 150ps** 3DR SATURDAY WHITE FEVER WITH RED ROOF (THE VXR OF ADAMS)		£11,995	

MEDIUM CARS

		WAS	NOW	SAVE
10 10	**ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.6 AUTOMATIC** 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 75,200 MILES 1 OWNER	£4,995	£4,695	£300
11 60	**NISSAN NOTE N-TEC 1.5DCI** BURGUNDY RED 49,500 MILES *SAT-NAV*		£5,995	
13 13	**VAUXHALL ASTRA ENERGY 1.6** 5DR ASTEROID GREY 49,250 MILES	£7,195	£6,795	£400
13 63	**VAUXHALL ASTRA ENERGY 1.4** 5DR CARBON BLACK 41,200 MILES	£7,495	£7,195	£300
13 13	**VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 1.6 AUTOMATIC** 5DR POWER RED 16,000 MILES	£7,895	£7,295	£600
14 64	**VAUXHALL ASTRA ENERGY 1.6** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 15,300 MILES	£9,195	£8,795	£400

MPV'S & ESTATES

		WAS	NOW	SAVE
1060	**VAUXHALL MERIVA SE 1.4T** 5DR SILVER LAKE 27,000 MILES		£6,295	
12 62	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV 1.6** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 27,800 MILES	£7,295	£6,995	£300
13 63	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV 1.6** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 14,000 MILES		£7,995	
11 61	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE 1.7CDTI** 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 21,500 MILES LEATHER TRIM		£7,995	
13 63	**VAUXHALL MERIVA TECHLINE 1.4** 5DR PEPPERDUST 11,000 MILES *SAT-NAV*		£8,295	
13 13	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN NAV 1.6** 5DR POWER RED ONLY 4,300 MILES		£8,695	
12 12	**ZAFIRA TOURER EXCLUSIV 2.0CDTI** 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 28,500 MILES		£9,295	
14 64	**VAUXHALL MERIVA TECHLINE 1.4** 5DR CARBON BLACK 14,400 MILES *SAT-NAV*		£9,395	
13 13	**FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6TDCI 115ps** ESTATE RED 19,300 MILES		£9,995	
16 16	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA TOURER ENERGY 1.6CDTI** DEEP SKY BLUE 1,600 MILES * SAT-NAV*		£16,995	
16 16	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA TOURER SRI 1.6CDTI SHINY ROCK** 1,900 MILES *SAT-NAV, WINTER PACK, 19" ALLOYS*		£17,995	

SUV'S & 4X4

		WAS	NOW	SAVE
1010	**KIA SOUL SHAKER 1.6** 5DR SPECIAL EDN CREAM 47,250 MILES	£5,695	£5,295	£400
13 13	**VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6** 5DR SUMMIT WHITE 33,400 MILES	£10,195	£9,695	£500
13 13	**MINI COUNTRYMAN COOPER 1.6** 5DR OXFORD GREEN 24,400 MILES		£10,995	
13 62	**VAUXHALL MOKKA TECHLINE 1.7CDTI** 5DR MISTY GREY 23,100 MILES *SAT-NAV*		£11,295	
13 63	**VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6** 5DR SATIN STEEL GREY 19,150 MILES	£11,295	£10,495	£800
13 13	**VAUXHALL ANTARA SE NAV 2.2CDTI 184ps AUTOMATIC** 5DR 4WD OLYMPIC WHITE 50,700 MILES *LEATHER & NAV*	£11,495	£10,995	£500
13 13	**MINI COOPER S D** 5DR BLAZING RED WITH BLACK ROOF & WHEELS 39,000 MILES		£11,495	
13 13	**VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.4T** 5DR 4WD SUMMIT WHITE 18,000 MILES		£11,695	
13 63	**VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.7CDTI 4WD** SATIN STEEL GREY 20,800 MILES	£11,995	£11,695	£300
14 14	**VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 11,200 MILES *SAT-NAV*	£11,995	£11,495	£500
14 14	**VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.4T** 5DR VELVET RED 17,400 MILES		£12,495	
1565	**VAUXHALL MOKKA TECHLINE 1.6** 5DR CARBON FLASH 11,800 MILES *SAT-NAV*		£12,995	
15 15	**MOKKA TECHLINE 1.6CDTI** 5DR ORANGE ROCK 9,400 MILES *SAT-NAV*		£13,695	
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		WAS	NOW	SAVE
12 12	**INSIGNIA ES 1.8** 5DR SILVER 47,000 MILES		£6,295	
12 12	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA ES** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 47,000 MILES		£6,295	
13 62	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA TECHLINE 2.0CDTI 160ps** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 70,600 MILES	£8,495	£7,895	£600
10 60	**AUDI A4 SE 2.0TDI** 4DR METALLIC GREY 85,250 MILES BLACK LEATHER		£9,495	
12 62	**CITROEN DS4 DSTYLE 2.0HDI** 5DR WHITE 24,300 MILES		£8,995	
15 15	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SRI 1.8** 5DR POWER RED 15,400 MILES 18" ALLOYS	£11,495	£10,995	£500
15 15	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SRI NAV 2.0CDTI** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 8,500 MILES 18" ALLOYS		£13,695	

CONVERTIBLES

		WAS	NOW	SAVE
10 10	**MAZDA MX-5 1.8 20TH ANNIVERSARY** AURORA BLUE 40,800 MILES		£8,695	
13 13	**VAUXHALL CASCADA ELITE 1.4T** ASTEROID GREY 31,350 MILES *LEATHER TRIM*	£13,695	£12,695	£1,000
16 16	**VAUXHALL CASCADA ELITE 2.0CDTI** OLYMPIC WHITE *DELIVERY MILEAGE* 20" ALLOYS SAVE OVER £7000 FROM LIST		£23,295	

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14 64	**VIVARO SPORTIVE 2.0CDTI LWB 2.9T** 11,600 MILES		£9,995	
14 64	**VIVARO 1.6CDTI 115PS L2H1 (LWB)** WHITE 20,600 MILES		£11,495	
14 64	**VIVARO 1.6CDTI 90ps L2H1 (LWB)** WHITE 10,400 MILES *SAT NAV*	£11,995	£11,295	£700
15 15	**RENAULT TRAFIC SL29 ENERGY dCi 120** BUSINESS *SAT-NAV* WHITE 18,700 MILES		£11,995	
14 64	**VIVARO SPORTIVE 1.6CDTI 115ps L1H1 (SWB)** SILVER 14,000 MILES	£12,495	£11,895	£600
15 15	**VIVARO SPORTIVE 1.6CDTI 115ps L2 H1 (LWB)** SILVER 19700 MILES	£12,695	£11,995	£700
12 62	**FORD RANGER LIMITED 2.2TDCI 150 4X4** MET BLACK 48,100 MILES		£13,795	

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		WAS	NOW	SAVE
07 07	**FIAT McLOUIS LAGAN 252** WHITE 21,100 MILES 2 BERTH FIXED BED		£23,395	
10 10	**FIAT CI CARIOCA** WHITE 19,750 MILES 4 BERTH FIXED BED		£28,295	
10 10	**FORD CI CARIOCA** WHITE 11,200 MILES 4 BERTH FIXED BED		£28,295	
13 63	**FIAT BAILEY APPROACH 620SE** WHITE 4,000 MILES 2 BERTH		£34,995	
12 62	**FIAT BAILEY APPROACH 625SE** WHITE 13,800 MILES 2 BERTH		£35,995	
16 16	**RENAULT RIMOR KATAMARANO 109+** 1,700 MILES *AS NEW* 5 BERTH ISLAND BED		£38,495	

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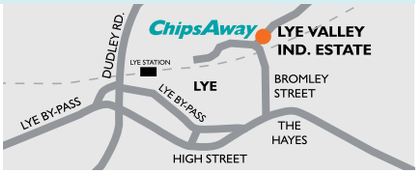

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DRIVETIME

Hi-spec for VW Transporter

Volkswagen has revealed a new high-specification version of its Transporter van called the Sportline.

Priced at £36,295 plus VAT, the new trim level sits above the Highline in the Transporter range and is designed to make the passenger-carrying van sportier and more comfortable for everyday use.

At launch, the new trim will be available solely on the T32 Kombi model, although further variants, including a panel van, will be offered later this year in time for 2017 deliveries.

From the outside, the newcomer is set apart by 18-inch two-tone alloy wheels, lowered suspension and sportier bumper.

Inside, there's embossed leather upholstery, along with air conditioning, a heated windscreen and the Discover Media touchscreen satellite navigation system.

Other technologies on board include parking sensors front and rear, LED lights and App Connect, which is a smartphone connectivity system that VW says allows "seamless" integration.

Under the bonnet is a 2.0-litre diesel engine producing 178bhp and a seven-speed automatic gearbox, a combination that emits 195g of CO2 per kilometre.

A more powerful 201bhp diesel engine will join the range at a later date, as well as a six-speed manual transmission.

VW Van Centres are already taking orders for the Sportline Kombi, with first deliveries expected in September.

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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guns & dogs

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

KITTENS for sale, 8 weeks old, all female, black and white and all black. £40. 07765 652167.

POND FISH approx 20-25, small and large, must collect, moving house. £30 the lot. 07787 705689.

SHIH TZU cross Chihuahua puppies, 2 boys, 2 girls, long black and white fluffy fur, weaned, wormed and chipped. Ready Sep 24, £350 each. Deposit secures. 01384 76385. 07792 607828.

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vets

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

A TWO BED FLAT off Compton Rd, CH, DG. Off road parking, £115.50 pw 01902 340073 / 07770 660636.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit with own bath/kitchen, £87 p/w, for mature DSS. 07550 002549.

THREE BEDROOM house, Bilston, CH, DG, £575pcm. 07852 225618.

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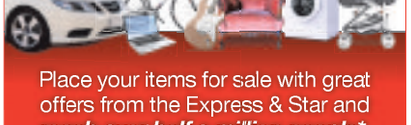

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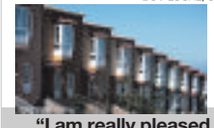

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7 Jobs

employment wanted

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8 Motoring

cars under £1500

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that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2, 11 months MoT, alloys wheels, low mileage, electric windows, good condition, £695. Telephone 07754 557861.

FIESTA FREEDOM, 56 plate, 30,000 miles, one owner, £1,500. 07784 358047.

FORD FIESTA 08, 3-dr, 69,000 miles, MoT July 17, petrol, very good condition, front windows Elec, a/c, CL. £1,400. 07838 897643.

FORD FOCUS ZETEC 05 Reg., blue, 2 previous owners, 97,000 miles, part service history, 2 keys, HPI report, MoT'd, excellent condition. **£1,000 o.n.o. 07443 510220.**

FORD KA 2008 MoT history, 56,000 genuine miles, drives, looks great, EW, pas, CL. £1,200. 07449 431723.

FORD KA Studio 1.3, red, 57 reg, 26,000 miles, FSH plus 12 months MoT, immaculate. £1,295. 01902 755525.

FORD KA Style, 2008, 65,000 miles, 1 previous owner, EW, AC, EM, burnt orange colour, excellent £1,495 ono. 07799 420194.

FORD STREETKA Luxury 1.6, convertible, 2004, silver. Long MoT, new parts, good condition, £800 ono. 01384 258713.

PEUEGEOT 1400 HDi, 53reg, 87,000 miles, long MoT, good condition throughout, any trial. £695. 01785 714840 / 07531 193354.

PEUGEOT 206 Estate, 03 reg, 76k, recent service, new cambelt, water pump and tyres, good inside/out £900 ono. 0121 3574940.

PEUGEOT 206 SW, 04 diesel Estate, red, 12 months MoT, only 3 former keepers, bargain £625 ovno. 07708 034039.

PEUGEOT 307 HDi Rapier, 5Dr, silver, MoT, CD, good condition/ runner, £500. o.n.o. 07511 749321.

RENAULT CLIO Dynamique, diesel, 02, SR, long MoT, 70mpg, £20 tax, lovely condition, £500. 07514 711600.

TOYOTA MR2 CONVERTIBLE Roadster, 2001, 101,188 miles, MoT July 2017, £1,000. Telephone 07796 628908.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi, 04 reg, 5-dr, low miles, 12 months MoT, CL, CD player, EW, EM, £995 ono. 07722 998594.

VOLVO ESTATE 1996, auto, petrol, MoT, leather, alloys, CL, £395. 07950 398750.

VW GOLF GTi, 2001, blue, long MoT, many new parts, alloy wheels, AC, sun roof, £500. 07549 871679.

cars over £1500

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Packages start from as little as
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6 nights free if you do not sell.
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FORD FOCUS Convertible, 2.0cc, 09 reg, MoT'd, service history, low miles, red, very good condition, £3,995 ono. 07968 804035

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Midland News Association, publisher of the Express & Star and Shropshire Star, is at the forefront of newspaper and digital media technologies. They are constantly looking at embracing new technologies to improve its business and become more efficient.

There is a rare opportunity for an IT Support Technician within the MNA technical support team, the successful candidate will have a willingness to work under pressure and work unsociable hours on a continental style shift basis.

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Applications including a full CV should be sent to: hr@mnamedia.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 30th September 2016

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Express & Star STAR

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Absolutely pristine.
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deolsuk@hotmail.co.uk

MERCEDES-BENZ ML270, high spec, good condition, full MOt, 140,000 miles, service history, 2.7 diesel, £2,500 ono. 07881 757703.

PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 2009, 5dr hatchback, 11 months MoT, EW, CL, immaculate condition, £20pa tax, £2,350. 07742 904992.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2010, 1.2 petrol, 5dr, silver, 10 months MoT, 54,000 miles, drives like new, £2,895. 07944 422732.

VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4 Exclusive, 09, leather interior, heated seats, MoT, alloys, low miles, £3,500 ono. 07407 439768. 0121 530 9905.

classic cars

PONTIAC GRAND AM 2dr coupe, 1988, white, left hand drive, nice condition, economical, £2,950. 01902 747180 / 07774 898966.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN BERLINGO VAN diesel, 1.6, 57 plate. £1,100. o.n.o. 07817 396628.

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Homer's
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
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scrap vehicles

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

GWENDOLINE MAY BANNER (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 19 Friars Close Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 5LZ, who died on 01/03/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Lawyers on or before 18/11/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
GUARDIAN WILLS
6 The Holloway
Swindon Dudley DY3 4NT T481863

HEDLEY GRAEME MUTTON (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 31 Burchall Close Deeping St James Lincolnshire formerly of 10 Whitland Drive Kings Heath Birmingham B14 5EX previously of 12 Birchgate Wollescote Stourbridge DY9 8XN, who died on 28/11/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 25/11/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
TALBOTS LAW LIMITED
63 Market Street Stourbridge
West Midlands DY8 1AQ T481924

10 Personals

personal

GENTLEMAN, YOUTHFUL 60'S
Slim-average build, 5ft11 tall, light smoker, honest, loyal and likes most things in life WLTM a similar aged slim-average lady for dates and possible romance.
Kidderminster area.
Box Number P20530 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 59
Tall, sincere, caring, easy going, GSOH, loving lady.
WLTM a tall, medium build, genuine male, for romantic nights in / out, who also a GSOH and who enjoys the nice things in life.
Photo appreciated (returned).
Box Number P20523, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINGLE GENT, 57
seeks similar lady for fun, friendship, meals out, maybe more.
All replies answered back.
Box Number P20521 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MR MAGIC
Love and miss you so much.
Hugs and hugs and kisses.
Love you forever.
Mrs Magic.
XXXX
X

WIDOW
SLIM BLONDE LADY
Own apartment and car, looking for a soulmate, aged early 70's, non smoker with own house and car to spend time with and to enjoy the good things in life.
Write Box No. P20533 (SS), Shropshire Newspapers Ltd, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV11ES.

YOUNG WOMAN, 38 YEARS OLD
With mild learning difficulty, very attractive and happy WLTM Man, aged 30 to 50 years for Friendship, preferably kind and sympathetic.
Staffordshire/Shropshire areas.
Car driver preferred but not essential.
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sports clubs

FC PERTON CHARTER STANDARD CLUB
Currently require
Under 14's Goalkeeper
also required
Under 9's
to form a new team.
Contact Paul
07592 065735.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

WANTED CHOIR MEMBERS for Beacon Community Choir, all abilities welcome. Thursday nights 7pm-8pm. 01902 829035.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

Wolverhampton Casuals ground at Brinsford Lane, Coven

Mick Green with club chairman Gareth Deacon, one of the other five-strong commitee members

Mick Green preparing the pitch before this season's big kick off

Another season in the life of evergreen Mick

CLUB stalwart Mick Green has kicked off yet another season of service with Wolverhampton Casuals.

With Casuals' ground located close to Featherstone Prison, in Brinsford Lane, Coven, there is no doubt Green has served his time at the club – 56 years to be exact. But he says he has no plans to escape.

At 71, most people would be looking forward to winding down and perhaps taking a backseat. But for Casuals' unsung hero that is simply not on the agenda.

When pitches need cutting and preparing and there are are a few white lines to be painted, Green will be up for the task.

As far as he is concerned Casuals is not just a football club, it's part of the family.

His grandfather James Waldron joined Casuals in 1910 while his uncle, Ken Waldron, also tasted action for the club.

Trend

Green simply followed the family trend but perhaps didn't envisage still being involved for so many years after making his debut as a right-back in 1960.

"This is family for me in a way," he said. "My wife will tell you that. They will be throwing my ashes all over the pitch.

"I never seriously wanted to play for anybody else, although I had offers. I have grown up with it and always felt the club was part of the family.

"My grandfather joined the club in 1910 and my uncle also played for them," said Green. "I just followed my granddad and started playing in 1960 when I left school.

"They had three teams and it was straight into men's football with the third team," he added. "There

SPORTING HEROES

By Nick Elwell

"Trying to get money off the FA. . . you might as well dig a hole 20 foot deep and sit in it and wait."

was no youth football like today. You went straight in at the deep end, getting kicked and clobbered all over the place.

"Then you worked your way up into the first team. I played until I was 40 and I packed in after 25 years playing.

"Sometimes I wish I hadn't packed in at 40. I tell people now to keep playing as long as they can.

"I used to play right wing and then slowly worked my way backwards.

"I even played in goal until I let seven or nine in, I can't remember how many it was. I had three matches in goal. We lost the last one against Birmingham Municipal Officials. The Warwickshire and England cricketer Dennis Amiss used to play for them and I played against him."

Since hanging his boots up, Green has shown plenty of versatility off the field, including ferrying former Albion defender Des Lyttle to games during his brief playing stint at the club, and these days he doubles up as match secretary and groundsman for the West Midlands League Premier Division outfit.

"I took on various roles when I finished playing, I used to go with the reserves as the bucket man and I was already on the committee," he said. "I was treasurer at one time and I am match secretary now and groundsman along with Sam Plant. We look after the two pitches."

Green and Plant serve alongside chairman Gareth Deacon, youth co-ordinator Darren Langford and John Thomas on a hard-working, five-man committee. The club is in good health at the moment despite a reduction in teams and numbers over the years.

Both pitches on the site are rented out to ensure a constant stream of revenue although the recent demise of ground-sharing Trysull has hit the club in the pocket.

"The club is in good shape in general," added Green. "We have just had a new fence put up to ensure our ground grading is good enough to play in the FA Cup.

Pushed

"We have got the senior side managed by Mark Halcroft and three youth teams. The last few years have been good. We have done very well money-wise with the bar and we have pushed forward with different things.

"It's always been a struggle like it is for most amateur football clubs. We don't get a lot of sponsorship and stuff like that.

"Trying to get money off the FA....you might as well dig a hole 20 foot deep and sit in it and wait."

And while Green has no plans to quit, he does worry where the next batch of club stalwarts will come from. "We keep looking for people to join but finding someone is very difficult," he said.

"People just aren't interested, other clubs will tell you the same.

"It's down to the committee to generate the cash.I just wonder what will happen when Sam and I pack in doing the pitches. We try and make it better each year, but it's all about money at the end of the day."

Mick's grandfather James Waldron features, third right, top row, on this picture from the 1930s

Mick looks at some of the old pictures in the clubhouse

Zaber's not giving up on Byfield bout

MANNY Zaber is not for turning in his desire to finally meet Dudley's Les Byfield in the ring before the year is out.

Zaber first called him out in July for a contest that has been brewing since the two were in the unlicensed ranks.

The pair were scheduled to go toe-to-toe then before Zaber, from Old Hill, was injured in a car accident. They turned pro afterwards.

Byfield, of Netherton, will only take the fight if there's a title on the line and may be dropping down to campaign at feather, while Zaber is planning to stay in the higher division.

Zaber said: "I just want to get in the ring with him and prove I'm the better man. I don't see why it shouldn't happen. I really want to make sure it does."

Byfield is set for action at the re-opened Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Friday, October 7.

Meanwhile, Zaber laces on the gloves at Walsall Town Hall next Saturday, taking on the most experienced pro in the country, Kristian Laight.

At the top of the Town Hall 'High Stakes' bill, the Midlands title will be contested in Zaber's desired weight class between Paul Holt and Louis Fielding.

Wolverhampton's Joshua Burke is back in action, against Jason Jones, after pulling out of a previous bill because of a wrist injury. Birmingham's Luke Walker takes on Telford's Kieron Gray at super welter.

Former world kickboxing champion Chad Sugden competes over six, with tough scrapper Mark Till in the other corner. West Bromwich's Tommy Loach makes his debut at welter, graduating from Wednesbury Boxing Club. Coventry cruiserweight Dilly Singh also turns over.

Tickets are £30, or £60 ringside, from the box office on 0845 111 2900.

Glassboys are put to sword by Gladiators

Matlock Town 3 Stourbridge 1

STOURBRIDGE produced a poor performance at Matlock and didn't deserve anything from the game.

Marcus Dinanga scored a hat-trick for the hosts. He put Matlock ahead on 47 minutes through a crowd of defenders.

On 65 minutes he produced a good finish past goalkeeper Matthew Gould when he was put through and then converted a penalty on 74 minutes when Brian Smikle was adjudged to have handled in the box. Substitute Brandon Hague pulled one back in the last minute.

Halesowen Town 3 Workington 2

HALESOWEN hitman Kaiman Anderson struck another two goals in a much-needed first home league win.

A freak Anderson goal gave Yeltz a 16th minute lead and Jordan Goddard made it two on 25.

Anderson restored the two-goal cushion after Matthew Douglas pulled one back. Then Josh Calvert made it a tense finish with a 30-yard effort past Yeltz keeper Dan Platt in the 81st minute.

Siblings taking the world by storm

Martial arts

MARTIAL art siblings Reuben and Kiyra Charlesworth have been crowned world champions.

The fighters, from Halesowen Martial Arts Centre, joined more than 1,000 competitiors, from 20-plus countries, for the tournament in Germany.

Kiyra was up first against a strong Italian girl, beating her to then take on an Austrian. She made it through to the final against a German Tae Kwon Do fighter, but she wasn't good enough to oust Kiyra, who became world champion at the first attempt – and on the eve of her 13th birthday.

As she celebrated her debut world crown, Reuben was next on the tatami looking to add to his 12 titles. He had some great fights in both his individual and Grand Champion divisions, showing why he is regarded as one of the best talents in the kickboxing.

Each fight he dominated and outclassed the others, to be crowned world and grand champion.

Father and coach Jason said: "This was a good test for my two children as they prepare to travel to Italy and Romania to compete soon."

He added Reuben and Kiyra were looking for sponsorship from local comanies. Anyone that can help is asked to call 07889627929.

● Meanwhile, a Stourbridge fighter is putting the town on the map with martial arts success.

Jason Leung has been WAKO British champion for five years on the trot, having also lifted national and English titles, with a combination of styles including taekwondo, kungfu, jeet kune do, kickboxing, and karate.

Leung, aged 26, a distribution worker, has been practising martial arts for 10 years and is a first dan black belt in tae kwon do. He trains at the TAGB academy at the Stourbridge School. For more information, call 0800 052 5960.

WHITE KICK STARTS STOUR

Luctonians 32 Stourbridge 49

STOURBRIDGE outside-half Luke White shone as the side rallied to an excellent victory at Luctonians in the National League Two North.

Luctonians were the first to score but a penalty for offside at the restart gave White his first points. He followed up with a successful 45-metre effort after a tackle offence, but the hosts soon pulled the lead back.

Stour then managed to break down Luctonians' defence, with Rod Petty's delayed pass putting winger Joe Bridger into enough space to score in the corner.

They were quick to drive forward again and won a penalty after a high tackle, with White getting another three points.

Billy Harding and Ben Tibbets both got tries, either side of a Lucs response, and Stour went into the interval with a 30-13 lead.

The home side were straight out of the blocks after the break and went over for a try but the visitors soon hit back.

After some nice play from Ciaran Moore, George Tildesley blasted round the cover to score and Joe Heatley quickly added another try.

Luctonians then replied with three quickfire tries but Heatley crossed over for his second try of the game, with White failing to convert for the first time in the game.

He lined up a penalty attempt from over 50 metres at the death, which just fell short, but Stour held out for a well-deserved win.

They have nine points from their first two games, putting them second in the table, and take on Sheffield Tigers at home on Saturday.

Director of rugby Neil Mitchell said: "Our pre-season did not quite go according to plan so I am very pleased with the performances we have put in over the first two games.

"We had to make a change for the game which left us a little bit exposed at the back and we conceded some tries we probably shouldn't have done.

"We scored some really good tries though and Luke White is an outstanding kicker. Having a great kicker is always crucial to having success but the reason he is getting penalties is down to the pressure of our forwards."

Strolling to a double victory

Man of the Tournament Adrian Chilton, left, battles for the ball against Walsall Leg Ends

HARTSHILL Strollers scored a double victory in the Rugeley Challenge Cup walking football tournament.

The Dudley club won both the main trophy and the runners-up Plate. It was the second successive year that Hartshill triumphed in the competition, having been victorious in the inaugural competition in 2015.

Adrian Chilton was named as the club's Man of the Tournament in the main competition, netting an impressive nine goals.

The tournament – at Rugeley Leisure Centre – saw Hartshill A having a tight game with Walsall Leg Ends, 0-0. But the next encounter saw the Strollers overwhelming Coleshill B 6-1, with Chilton netting five times. In the next round, against hosts Rugeley, Hartshill ran out 2-0 winners.In the semi-finals, Strollers beat Hindlip 3-0, Heath (2), Chilton (1).

Hartshill quickly took control in the final against Coleshill A, running out 4-1 winners, Heath scoring twice, and Chilton and Davis once each.

Meanwhile, Hartshill B, despite having lost all four of the group stage matches, beat Rugeley 3-0 in the first match of the Plate (Kevin Weston (2) and Steve Edwards)

The final – against Coleshill B – was tight, finishing goal-less. But Hartshill ran out of winners, winning n penalties, 3-1.

Chess club face tougher new season

IT was the start of a new chess season for Stourbridge with the first team playing in the first division of the Wolverhampton League. But it is going to be tough as three of last season's best players have moved to other clubs.

The firsts began on Monday with a match against Boldmere in division 2. Boldmere were close to full strength so the teams were evenly matched. But 40 minutes in Stourbridge were ahead thanks to Eric Horwill landing a 13-move miniature, followed by wins for Julie Wilson and Paul Sharratt. Stourbridge were 3-0 up and had earned their first league point of the season. John Foxall then offered his opponent a draw which was accepted to give Stourbridge the match.

Board one Nic Fallowfield managed to land a mate in the last five minutes. Stourbridge won the match 4½-1½ with only one loss on board 2.

On Wednesday Halesowen arrived for two matches, a Wolverhampton Division 1 fixture and the Humphreys Cup quarter-final.

Halesowen first team easily outgraded Stourbridge but Stour put up a good fight with Paul Sharratt winning and Eric Horwill and reserve Chris Cox both drawing. The final match result was 2-4 to Halesowen.

In the Humphreys cup, Jeremy Humphries won on board one and Colin Woodall and Martin Berridge both drew. With a loss on board four the match result was 2-2 but Stourbridge won on board count and are through to the next round.

Stourbridge Chess Club held a pre-season blitz tournament, each player having only five minutes on his clock for each game. Nic Fallowfield won the tournament on 12 points. He lost his first game and then had 12 straight wins.

Legendary AP rides in for charity event

LEGENDARY jockey AP 'Tony' McCoy will be regaling fans in Dudley next week.

Next Thursday's event, at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill, includes a three-course meal, charity raffle, auction, silent auction and a business card draw. It will help raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

BBC WM's Paul Franks will compete the evening, with entertainment from comedian Kevin Connelly.

Tickets are £65 plus VAT a head for a table of eight or ten. Individual tickets are £70 plus VAT. Call Route 39 on 01902 244 220.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.

Thursday, September 15, 2016

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